

Senator Fateh from the Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred

S.F. No. 3667: A bill for an act relating to higher education; appropriating money to identify and assist incarcerated individuals with defaulted federal student loans.

Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill be amended as follows:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

"Section 1. FRESH START PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION.

(a) \$..... in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of the Department of Corrections to support a higher education liaison position to coordinate between the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

(b) The commissioner of the Department of Corrections shall provide outreach in each correctional facility in Minnesota to apprise incarcerated persons about the federal Fresh Start program and encourage eligible persons to enroll in the program. The commissioner shall work with a student loan debt counseling grantee under Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.1788, to assist Fresh Start applicants to enroll in an income-driven repayment plan when the borrower is in repayment status.

(c) The commissioner shall report by January 15, 2025, to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over corrections and higher education. The report must include a summary of the outreach efforts in each correctional facility in Minnesota to enroll eligible incarcerated persons in the federal Fresh Start program, the efforts to assist Fresh Start applicants in enrolling in income-driven repayment plans, the number of incarcerated persons served by the student loan debt counseling grantee referenced under paragraph (b), and the number of incarcerated persons who contacted the United States Department of Education about enrolling in the federal Fresh Start program in the previous year."

Delete the title and insert:

"A bill for an act
relating to corrections; appropriating money for a higher education liaison at the
Department of Corrections; requiring informational outreach about the federal
Fresh Start program; requiring a report."

And when so amended the bill do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.


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(Committee Chair)

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April 11, 2024.....
(Date of Committee recommendation)