

## Summary of higher education items in the 2012 Legislative Session:

**Omnibus higher education policy bill.** Highlights include:

- **Student health insurance options** – The University of MN or MnSCU must grant a waiver from required health insurance if a student has coverage from another source.
- **MnSCU to operate during a budget impasse** – Allows MnSCU to operate during a state budget impasse.
- **MnSCU increase in revenue bond limit** – Allows an increase in revenue bonds outstanding. Revenue bonds build and renovate dorms, parking structures, etc.
- **Safety Officer Survivor Grants for Grad Students** – Authorizes the use of the program for graduate study.
- **Teacher performance assessment** – By Jan. 15, 2013, the Board of Teaching must make recommendations to eliminate lower priority tests to offset any added fees charged to students for the new teacher performance assessment.
- **MN College Savings Plan technical change** on contingent account owners.
- **Student immunization requirement change** – Sec. 2. Adds students enrolled in online classes and evening adult accelerated programs to the list of students not required to prove their immunizations.
- **Textbooks and Course Materials** – Sections 3-5 and 14. Requires MnSCU to provide notice of textbooks 45 days prior to a term, and to provide retail prices. Requests the U of MN and private colleges to do the same. Establishes a working group at MnSCU on reducing textbook costs.
- **Mineral research, mining engineering and scholarships at the U of MN** – Sec. 10. Directs that up to \$25 million of the Permanent University Fund be used for a University of MN program at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College and scholarships.
- **Exempt avocational postsecondary institutes from regulation** – Sec. 11. Exempts institutes that do not prepare students for careers from regulation by OHE.
- **U of MN appropriation to Hennepin County Medical Center for family practice Residents** – Sec. 15. Requires the University of MN to transfer \$645,000 each year from its appropriation to HCMC.

The governor signed the bill on May 3 and it became *Laws of Minnesota 2012*, Chapter 270:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=270&doctype=Chapter&year=2012&type=0>

### Higher Education Capital Improvements (Bonding)

The Higher Ed Total in the bill is \$196.19 million, which is \$6.27 million more than the Governor's recommendation for higher education, which was \$189.92 million.

- **University of Minnesota** – The total for the University of MN is \$64.06 million, \$14 million less than the Governor's recommendation, which was \$78.06 million. The bill has \$30 million more for asset preservation (HEAPR) and \$44 million less for the combined heat and power plant than the Governor recommended.
- **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities** -- The total for MnSCU is \$132.13 million, \$20.26 million more than the Governor's recommendation, which was \$111.86 million. The bill has \$20 million for asset preservation and \$112 million for projects around the state.

The Governor signed the bill on May 11 and it became *Laws of Minnesota 2012*, Chapter 293:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=293&doctype=chapter&year=2012&type=0>

## Other Higher Education Legislation

- **Expansion of the MN GI Bill for on-the-job training and apprenticeships** – Expands MN GI Bill benefits to allow veterans (and spouses and dependents of disabled veterans) who served on or after 9/11/2001 to have access to on-the-job training (OJT) and apprenticeships. This aspect of the MN GI Bill program will be administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The benefit will be \$2,000 per year for apprenticeship or on-the-job training and \$1,000 a year for a job placement credit payable to the employer. Employers who continue to employ eligible participants after 12 consecutive months are eligible to apply for an additional \$1,000 credit. The provision was added to a bill on education finance technical updates, education and human services budget forecast adjustments. The Governor signed the bill on May 10 and it became *Laws of Minnesota 2012*, Chapter 292, Article 4, Sections 12 and 13.  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=292&doctype=Chapter&year=2012&type=0>
- **MnSCU leveraged equipment acquisition** – Appropriates \$457,000 in fiscal year 2013 to MnSCU for acquisition of equipment for instructional purposes for programs that will produce graduates with skills for which there is a high employer need within the state. Requires a match in cash or in-kind from non-state sources. The provision was added to a bill on education finance technical updates, education and human services budget forecast adjustments. The Governor signed the bill on May 10 and it became *Laws of Minnesota 2012*, Chapter 292, Article 4, Section 21.
- **Expansion of Postsecondary Enrollment Options** – This was a provision in the Omnibus E12 education bill. The bill allows a 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student to enroll in a career and technical education course offered by MnSCU. Requires a 10th grade student to pass the 8th grade reading Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment in order to participate. Allows an eligible student who is refused enrollment by MnSCU to apply to an eligible private nonprofit institution offering a career and technical education course. Requires a postsecondary institution to allow a secondary student who receives a career and technical education course grade of "C" or better to take additional postsecondary courses. Allows postsecondary institutions to advertise or solicit the participation of high school students on educational and programmatic grounds. The provision was in a bill the Governor signed on April 27 and it became *Laws of Minnesota 2012*, Chapter 239.
- **Authority to sell liquor at the university of MN football stadium** –The bill allows alcoholic beverages to be sold at the TCF Bank Stadium both in the premium suites and in a separate beer garden area for general ticketholders. The Regents will examine the law change and determine how alcohol sales will be managed at TCF Bank Stadium. The Governor signed the bill on April 27 and it became *Laws of Minnesota 2012*, Chapter 235, the omnibus liquor bill.