

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 1288

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DATE
02/06/2023

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Higher Education

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to higher education; establishing an allied health technician scholarship
1.3 program; requiring a report; appropriating money.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **ALLIED HEALTH TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education
1.7 shall establish a program to provide up to 1,000 scholarships to students entering specified
1.8 health technician programs by 2026.

1.9 Subd. 2. Eligible students. (a) To be eligible for a scholarship under this section, a
1.10 student must:

1.11 (1) apply in the form and manner specified by the commissioner;

1.12 (2) be a resident student, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.101, subdivision
1.13 8;

1.14 (3) attend an eligible institution, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.101,
1.15 subdivision 4;

1.16 (4) be enrolled in the student's first term in a nationally accredited degree, diploma, or
1.17 certificate program in one of the following health technician fields:

1.18 (i) medical laboratory technologist;

1.19 (ii) medical laboratory technician;

1.20 (iii) respiratory therapist;

2.1 (iv) radiology technologist; or

2.2 (v) surgical technologist; and

2.3 (5) submit to the commissioner a completed affidavit, prescribed by the commissioner,
2.4 affirming the student's intent to work in the specified health technician field following
2.5 graduation.

2.6 (b) A student may receive a scholarship under this section only once.

2.7 Subd. 3. **Administration; award amount.** (a) The commissioner must establish an
2.8 application process and other guidelines for implementing this program. The first set of
2.9 scholarships must be awarded for the 2024-2025 academic year.

2.10 (b) The amount of a scholarship awarded under this section is \$5,000. The scholarship
2.11 shall be paid in a lump sum directly to the institution where the recipient is enrolled.

2.12 Subd. 4. **Reporting.** By February 1, 2025, and again by February 1, 2026, the
2.13 commissioner must submit a report on the program to the chairs and ranking minority
2.14 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education finance and
2.15 policy. The report must include the following information as well as any other information
2.16 the commissioner considers relevant:

2.17 (1) information about all postsecondary health technician programs giving rise to
2.18 eligibility for a scholarship under this section, including the programs' locations, costs,
2.19 enrollment capacities, acceptance rates, and other relevant information;

2.20 (2) available data on the current and forecasted demand for health technicians in
2.21 Minnesota; and

2.22 (3) the total number of scholarships issued broken out by:

2.23 (i) year of award;

2.24 (ii) postsecondary institution attended;

2.25 (iii) health technician field; and

2.26 (iv) relevant and available demographic data about award recipients.

2.27 Subd. 5. **Expiration.** This section expires June 30, 2026.

3.1 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; ALLIED HEALTH TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP**
3.2 **PROGRAM.**

3.3 (a) \$5,380,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the
3.4 commissioner of the Office of Higher Education for the allied health technician scholarship
3.5 program under section 1. Of this amount:

3.6 (1) \$5,000,000 is for awarding 1,000 student scholarships;

3.7 (2) \$230,000 is for promotion of the program and student recruitment efforts; and

3.8 (3) \$150,000 is for administering the program.

3.9 (b) This is a onetime appropriation. This appropriation is available until expended or
3.10 until June 30, 2026, whichever occurs first.