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Senate

State of Minnesota

S.F. No. 1301 – Clarifying and Expanding Workforce Development Scholarships (as proposed to be amended by A-2)

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This bill expands the workforce scholarship program, which was established in Minnesota Statutes, section 136F.38, in 2017 to incentivize students to attend two-year colleges and secure a job in a high-demand occupation following graduation.

In addition to the high-demand fields listed in the statute, this bill adds “construction” to the list and expands the program to allow each institution to add one additional area of study based on a workforce shortage that is unique to the institution’s specific region. The institution is allowed to change the area of study or certification based on new data once every two years.

This bill also clarifies that the student must be enrolled in a “two-year” college in order to be eligible for a first- and second-year scholarship.

Further, a student is eligible for a one-year transfer scholarship if the student transfers from a two-year college after two or more terms and is enrolled for at least 12 credits in a Minnesota State four-year university.