

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1300**

(SENATE AUTHORS: BENSON, Clausen, Bonoff and Limmer)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/02/2015	505	Introduction and first reading Referred to Higher Education and Workforce Development
03/19/2015	979a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary
04/07/2015		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance Author added Limmer

A bill for an act

1.1 relating to higher education; establishing certain criteria for postsecondary  
 1.2 sexual harassment and sexual violence policies; providing data classifications;  
 1.3 requiring reports; requiring coordination between local law enforcement and  
 1.4 postsecondary institutions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 13.322,  
 1.5 by adding a subdivision; 135A.15, subdivisions 1, 2, by adding subdivisions;  
 1.6 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 626.  
 1.7

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

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 13.322, is amended by adding a  
 1.10 subdivision to read:

1.11 Subd. 6. **Campus sexual assault data.** Data relating to allegations of sexual assault  
 1.12 at a postsecondary institution are classified in section 135A.15.

1.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.14 Subdivision 1. **Policy required.** The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State  
 1.15 Colleges and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to, adopt  
 1.16 a clear, understandable written policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence that  
 1.17 informs victims of their rights under the crime victims bill of rights, including the right to  
 1.18 assistance from the Crime Victims Reparations Board and the commissioner of public  
 1.19 safety. The policy must apply to students and employees and must provide information  
 1.20 about their rights and duties. The policy must apply to criminal incidents against a student  
 1.21 or employee of a postsecondary institution occurring on property owned or leased by the  
 1.22 postsecondary system or institution ~~in which the victim is a student or employee of that~~  
 1.23 ~~system or institution~~ or at any activity, program, organization, or event sponsored by the  
 1.24 system or institution, including fraternities and sororities. It must include procedures for

2.1 reporting incidents of sexual harassment or sexual violence and for disciplinary actions  
 2.2 against violators. During student registration, each technical college, community college,  
 2.3 or state university shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to, provide each  
 2.4 student with information regarding its policy. A copy of the policy also shall be posted at  
 2.5 appropriate locations on campus at all times. ~~Each private postsecondary institution that~~  
 2.6 ~~is an eligible institution as defined in section 136A.155, must adopt a policy that meets~~  
 2.7 ~~the requirements of this section.~~

2.8 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 2.9 to read:

2.10 Subd. 1a. **Applicability to private institutions.** Each private postsecondary  
 2.11 institution that is an eligible institution as defined in section 136A.103 must comply with  
 2.12 all of the requirements imposed in this section.

2.13 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.14 Subd. 2. **Victims' rights.** (a) The policy required under subdivision 1 shall, at  
 2.15 a minimum, require that students and employees be informed of the policy, and shall  
 2.16 include provisions for:

2.17 (1) filing criminal charges with local law enforcement officials in sexual assault cases;

2.18 (2) the prompt assistance of campus authorities, at the request of the victim, in  
 2.19 notifying the appropriate law enforcement officials and disciplinary authorities of a  
 2.20 sexual assault incident;

2.21 (3) informing sexual assault victims that they may report a case to law enforcement  
 2.22 and allowing sexual assault victims to decide whether to report a case to law enforcement;

2.23 (4) requiring campus authorities to offer sexual assault victims fair and respectful  
 2.24 health care, counseling services, or referrals to such services;

2.25 (5) preventing campus authorities from suggesting a victim of sexual assault is at  
 2.26 fault for the crimes or violations that occurred;

2.27 (6) preventing campus authorities from suggesting that a victim of sexual assault  
 2.28 should have acted in a different manner to avoid such a crime;

2.29 (7) protecting the privacy of sexual assault victims by, unless otherwise required by  
 2.30 law, only disclosing data collected under this section to the victim, persons whose work  
 2.31 assignments reasonably require access, and, at a sexual assault victim's request, police  
 2.32 conducting a criminal investigation;

2.33 ~~(3)~~ (8) an investigation and resolution of a sexual assault complaint by campus  
 2.34 disciplinary authorities;

- 3.1 ~~(4)~~ (9) a sexual assault victim's participation in and the presence of the victim's  
3.2 attorney or other support person at any meeting with campus officials concerning a sexual  
3.3 assault complaint or campus disciplinary proceeding concerning a sexual assault complaint;
- 3.4 (10) ensuring that a sexual assault victim is not required to repeat unnecessarily a  
3.5 description of the incident of sexual assault;
- 3.6 (11) notice to a sexual assault victim of the availability of a campus or local program  
3.7 providing sexual assault advocacy services;
- 3.8 ~~(5)~~ (12) notice to a sexual assault victim of the outcome of any campus disciplinary  
3.9 proceeding concerning a sexual assault complaint, consistent with laws relating to data  
3.10 practices;
- 3.11 ~~(6)~~ (13) the complete and prompt assistance of campus authorities, at the direction  
3.12 of law enforcement authorities, in obtaining, securing, and maintaining evidence in  
3.13 connection with a sexual assault incident;
- 3.14 ~~(7)~~ (14) the assistance of campus authorities in preserving for a sexual assault  
3.15 complainant or victim materials relevant to a campus disciplinary proceeding; ~~and~~
- 3.16 ~~(8)~~ (15) during and after the process of investigating a complaint and conducting  
3.17 a campus disciplinary procedure, the assistance of campus personnel, in cooperation  
3.18 with the appropriate law enforcement authorities, at a sexual assault victim's request, in  
3.19 shielding the victim from unwanted contact with the alleged assailant, including transfer  
3.20 of the victim to alternative classes or to alternative college-owned housing, if alternative  
3.21 classes or housing are available and feasible;
- 3.22 (16) forbidding retaliation, and establishing a process for investigating complaints of  
3.23 retaliation, against sexual assault victims by campus authorities, the accused, organizations  
3.24 affiliated with the accused, other students, and other employees;
- 3.25 (17) at the request of the victim, providing students who reported sexual assaults to  
3.26 the institution and subsequently choose to transfer to another postsecondary institution  
3.27 with information about resources for victims of sexual assault at the institution to which  
3.28 the victim is transferring; and
- 3.29 (18) consistent with laws governing access to student records, providing a student  
3.30 who reported an incident of sexual assault with access to the student's description of the  
3.31 incident as it was reported to the institution, including if that student transfers to another  
3.32 postsecondary institution.
- 3.33 (b) For the purposes of this section, "sexual assault" means sex offenses as defined  
3.34 in Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, part 668, subpart D, appendix A, as amended.

4.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a subdivision  
4.2 to read:

4.3 Subd. 3. **Uniform amnesty.** The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges  
4.4 and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to, include in the  
4.5 system's sexual harassment and violence policy a provision that no student who reports,  
4.6 in good faith, an act of sexual harassment or sexual violence shall be sanctioned by the  
4.7 institution for admitting to a violation of the institution's student conduct policy on the  
4.8 personal use of drugs or alcohol as part of the report.

4.9 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a subdivision  
4.10 to read:

4.11 Subd. 4. **Coordination with local law enforcement.** (a) The Board of Trustees  
4.12 of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota  
4.13 is requested to, direct each campus in the system to enter into a memorandum of  
4.14 understanding with the primary local law enforcement agencies that serve the campus.  
4.15 The memorandum must be entered into no later than January 1, 2017, and updated every  
4.16 two years thereafter. This memorandum shall clearly delineate responsibilities and  
4.17 require information sharing, in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws,  
4.18 about certain crimes including, but not limited to, sexual assault. This memorandum  
4.19 of understanding shall provide:

4.20 (1) delineation and sharing protocols of investigative responsibilities;

4.21 (2) protocols for investigations, including standards for notification and  
4.22 communication and measures to promote evidence preservation; and

4.23 (3) a method of sharing information about specific crimes, when directed by the  
4.24 victim, and a method of sharing crime details anonymously in order to better protect  
4.25 overall campus safety.

4.26 (b) Prior to the start of each academic year, the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota  
4.27 State Colleges and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to,  
4.28 distribute an electronic copy of the memorandum of understanding to all employees on the  
4.29 campus that are subject to the memorandum.

4.30 (c) A campus is exempt from the requirement that it develop a memorandum of  
4.31 understanding under this section if the campus and local or county law enforcement  
4.32 agencies establish a sexual assault protocol team to facilitate effective cooperation and  
4.33 collaboration between the institution and law enforcement.

5.1 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a subdivision  
5.2 to read:

5.3 Subd. 5. **Online reporting system.** (a) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota  
5.4 State Colleges and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to,  
5.5 provide an online reporting system to receive complaints of sexual harassment and sexual  
5.6 violence from students and employees. The system must permit anonymous reports,  
5.7 provided that the institution is not obligated to investigate an anonymous report, unless  
5.8 a formal report is submitted through the process established in the institution's sexual  
5.9 harassment and sexual violence policy or an investigation is otherwise required by law.

5.10 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall,  
5.11 and the University of Minnesota is requested to, provide students making reports under  
5.12 this section with information about who will receive and have access to the reports filed,  
5.13 how the information gathered through the system will be used, and contact information for  
5.14 on-campus and off-campus organizations serving victims of sexual violence.

5.15 (c) Data collected under this subdivision is classified as private data on individuals  
5.16 as defined by section 13.02, subdivision 12.

5.17 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a subdivision  
5.18 to read:

5.19 Subd. 6. **Data collection and reporting.** (a) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota  
5.20 State Colleges and Universities and the University of Minnesota shall annually report  
5.21 statistics on sexual assault. This report must be prepared in addition to any federally  
5.22 required reporting on campus security, including reports required by the Jeanne Clery  
5.23 Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, United States  
5.24 Code, title 20, section 1092(f). The report must include, but not be limited to, the number of  
5.25 incidents of sexual assault reported to the institution in the previous fiscal year, as follows:

5.26 (1) the number that were investigated by the institution;

5.27 (2) the number that were referred for a disciplinary proceeding at the institution;

5.28 (3) the number the victim chose to report to local or state law enforcement;

5.29 (4) the number for which a campus disciplinary proceeding is pending, but has not  
5.30 reached a final resolution;

5.31 (5) the number in which the alleged perpetrator was found responsible by the  
5.32 disciplinary proceeding at the institution;

5.33 (6) the number that resulted in any action by the institution greater than a warning  
5.34 issued to the accused;

6.1 (7) the number that resulted in a disciplinary proceeding at the institution that closed  
6.2 without resolution;

6.3 (8) the number that resulted in a disciplinary proceeding at the institution that closed  
6.4 without resolution because the accused withdrew from the institution;

6.5 (9) the number that resulted in a disciplinary proceeding at the institution that closed  
6.6 without resolution because the victim chose not to participate in the procedure; and

6.7 (10) the number of reports made through the online reporting system established in  
6.8 subdivision 5, excluding reports submitted anonymously.

6.9 (b) If an institution previously submitted a report indicating that one or more  
6.10 disciplinary proceedings was pending, but had not reached a final resolution, and one or  
6.11 more of those disciplinary proceedings reached a final resolution within the previous fiscal  
6.12 year, that institution must submit an updated report for the previous year that reflects  
6.13 the outcome of the pending case or cases.

6.14 (c) The reports required by this subdivision must be submitted to the Office of  
6.15 Higher Education by October 1 of each year. Each report must contain the data required  
6.16 under paragraphs (a) and (b) from the previous fiscal year.

6.17 (d) The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education shall calculate statewide  
6.18 numbers for each data item reported by an institution under this subdivision.

6.19 (e) The Office of Higher Education shall publish on its Web site:

6.20 (1) the statewide data calculated under paragraph (d); and

6.21 (2) the data items required under paragraphs (a) and (b) for each postsecondary  
6.22 institution in the state.

6.23 Each state college or university shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to,  
6.24 publish on the institution's Web site the data items required under paragraphs (a) and (b)  
6.25 for that institution.

6.26 (f) Reports and data required under this subdivision must be prepared and published  
6.27 as summary data, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 19, and must be consistent with  
6.28 applicable law governing access to educational data. If an institution or the Office of  
6.29 Higher Education does not include data in a report or publish data because of applicable  
6.30 law, the report or publication must explain why data are not included.

6.31 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a subdivision  
6.32 to read:

6.33 Subd. 7. **Access to data; audit trail.** (a) Data on incidents of sexual assault shared  
6.34 with campus security officers or campus administrators responsible for investigating or  
6.35 adjudicating complaints of sexual assault are classified as private data on individuals as

7.1 defined by section 13.02, subdivision 12, for the purposes of postsecondary institutions  
7.2 subject to the requirements of chapter 13. Postsecondary institutions not otherwise subject  
7.3 to chapter 13 must limit access to the data to only the data subject and persons whose  
7.4 work assignments reasonably require access.

7.5 (b) Only individuals with explicit authorization from an institution may enter, update,  
7.6 or access electronic data collected, created, or maintained under this section. The ability of  
7.7 authorized individuals to enter, update, or access data must be limited through the use of  
7.8 role-based access that corresponds to the official duties or training level of the individual  
7.9 and the institutional authorization that grants access for that purpose. All actions in which  
7.10 data are entered, updated, accessed, shared, or disseminated outside of the institution  
7.11 must be recorded in a data audit trail. An institution shall immediately and permanently  
7.12 revoke the authorization of any individual determined to have willfully entered, updated,  
7.13 accessed, shared, or disseminated data in violation of this subdivision or any provision of  
7.14 chapter 13. If an individual is determined to have willfully gained access to data without  
7.15 explicit authorization, the matter shall be forwarded to a county attorney for prosecution.

7.16 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a  
7.17 subdivision to read:

7.18 Subd. 8. **Comprehensive training.** (a) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota  
7.19 State Colleges and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested  
7.20 to, provide campus security officers and campus administrators responsible for  
7.21 investigating or adjudicating complaints of sexual assault with comprehensive training on  
7.22 preventing and responding to sexual assault in collaboration with the Bureau of Criminal  
7.23 Apprehension or another law enforcement agency with expertise in criminal sexual  
7.24 conduct. The training for campus security officers shall include a presentation on the  
7.25 dynamics of sexual assault, neurobiological responses to trauma, and best practices for  
7.26 preventing, responding to, and investigating sexual assault. The training for campus  
7.27 administrators responsible for investigating or adjudicating complaints on sexual assault  
7.28 shall include presentations on preventing sexual assault, responding to incidents of  
7.29 sexual assault, the dynamics of sexual assault, neurobiological responses to trauma, and  
7.30 compliance with state and federal laws on sexual assault.

7.31 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall,  
7.32 and the University of Minnesota is requested to, require that the following categories of  
7.33 students complete a training on sexual assault:

7.34 (1) students pursuing a degree or certificate; and

7.35 (2) any other categories of students determined by the institution.

8.1 Students must complete such training no later than ten business days after the  
8.2 start of a student's first semester of classes. Once a student completes such a training,  
8.3 institutions must document the student's completion of the training and provide proof of  
8.4 training completion to a student at the student's request. Students enrolled at more than  
8.5 one institution within the same system at the same time are only required to complete  
8.6 the training once. This training shall include information about topics including, but  
8.7 not limited to, sexual assault as defined in subdivision 2; consent as defined in section  
8.8 609.341, subdivision 4; preventing and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault;  
8.9 procedures for reporting campus sexual assault; and campus resources on sexual assault,  
8.10 including organizations that support victims of sexual assault.

8.11 (c) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall,  
8.12 and the University of Minnesota is requested to, annually train individuals responsible  
8.13 for responding to reports of sexual assault. This training shall include information about  
8.14 best practices for interacting with victims of sexual assault, including how to reduce the  
8.15 emotional distress resulting from the reporting, investigatory, and disciplinary process.

8.16 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a  
8.17 subdivision to read:

8.18 Subd. 9. **Student health services.** (a) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota  
8.19 State Colleges and Universities shall, and the University of Minnesota is requested to,  
8.20 develop and implement a policy that requires student health service providers to screen  
8.21 students for incidents of sexual assault. Student health service providers shall offer  
8.22 students information on resources available to victims and survivors of sexual assault  
8.23 including counseling, mental health services, and procedures for reporting incidents of  
8.24 sexual assault to the institution.

8.25 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall, and  
8.26 the University of Minnesota is requested to, require that each institution offering student  
8.27 health or counseling services designate an existing staff member or existing staff members  
8.28 as confidential resources for victims of sexual assault. The confidential resource must be  
8.29 available to meet with victims of sexual assault. The confidential resource must provide  
8.30 victims of sexual assault with information about locally available resources for victims of  
8.31 sexual assault including, but not limited to, mental health services and legal assistance.  
8.32 The confidential resource must provide victims of sexual assault with information about  
8.33 the process for reporting an incident of sexual assault to campus authorities or local law  
8.34 enforcement. The victim of sexual assault shall decide whether to report an incident of  
8.35 sexual assault to campus authorities or local law enforcement. Confidential resources



9.1 must be trained in all aspects of responding to incidents of sexual assault including, but  
9.2 not limited to, best practices for interacting with victims of trauma, preserving evidence,  
9.3 campus disciplinary and local legal processes, and locally available resources for victims  
9.4 of sexual assault. Data shared with a confidential resource is classified as sexual assault  
9.5 communication data as defined by section 13.822, subdivision 1.

9.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The policy required under this subdivision must be in place  
9.7 by January 1, 2017.

9.8 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 135A.15, is amended by adding a  
9.9 subdivision to read:

9.10 **Subd. 10. Mandatory reporting laws.** This section does not exempt mandatory  
9.11 reporters from the requirements of section 626.556 or 626.557 governing the reporting of  
9.12 maltreatment of minors or vulnerable adults.

9.13 Sec. 13. **[626.891] COOPERATION WITH POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.**

9.14 Local law enforcement agencies, including law enforcement agencies operated  
9.15 by statutory cities, home rule charter cities, and counties must enter into and honor the  
9.16 memoranda of understanding required under section 135A.15.

9.17 Sec. 14. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9.18 This act is effective August 1, 2016.