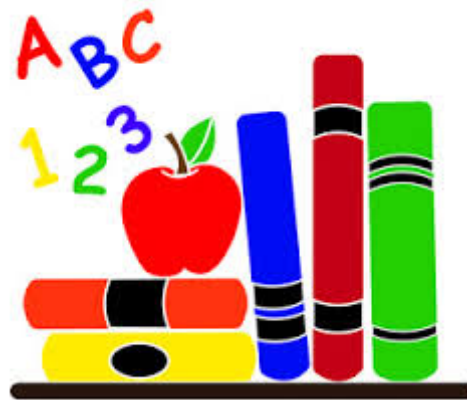


EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**One-Hundredth Fifth Nebraska Legislature
Second Session
2018**

SUMMARY AND DISPOSITION OF BILLS



**Senator Mike Groene, Chairperson
Senator Rick Kolowski, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Laura Ebke
Senator Steve Erdman
Senator Lou Ann Linehan
Senator Adam Morfeld
Senator Patty Pansing Brooks
Senator Lynne Walz**

**Committee Staff: W. LaMont Rainey, Committee Counsel
Charles Garman, Committee Counsel
Kristina McGovern, Committee Clerk**

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LB 630 (*Larson*) Adopt the Independent Public Schools Act

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LB 308 (*Brasch*) Change provisions relating to classification of school districts

LB 377 (*Education Committee*) Change provisions relating to classification of school districts

LB 427 (*Vargas*) Require breastfeeding accommodations for student-parents

LB 428 (*Vargas*) Require schools and the State Department of Education to adopt policies relating to pregnant and parenting students

LB 512 (*Education Committee*) Change provisions related to education

LB 828 (*Lowe*) Adopt the Empowerment Savings Account Act

LB 999 (*Vargas*) Change provisions relating to the Student Discipline Act

LB 1070 (*Brewer*) Change an election requirement for school districts with fewer than twenty-five students in high school grades

LB 1081 (*Education Committee*) Change education provisions regarding reporting, penalties, residency, boundaries, priority schools, subpoena authority, poverty, and limited English proficiency

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LB 265 (*Friesen*) Provide for a minimum amount of state aid based on the number of students in a local system

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LB 124 (*Baker*) Increase the probationary period of community college staff

LB 396 (*Morfeld*) Change residency provisions relating to postsecondary educational institutions

LB 490 (*Walz*) Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act

LB 569 (*Friesen*) Establish the Community College Task Force and sunset community college levies

LB 718 (*Halloran*) Adopt the Higher Education Free Speech Accountability Act

LB 737 (*Lindstrom*) Adopt the First Responder Education Act

LB 857 (*Morfeld*) Adopt the Campus Confidentiality Act

LB 898 (*Howard*) Require public postsecondary educational institutions to conduct an annual sexual assault climate survey

LB 917 (*Bolz*) Change eligibility relating to the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act

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LB 235 (*Walz*) Clarify grant requirements for the Summer Food Service Program

LB 771 (*Walz*) Adopt the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act

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LB 119 (*Groene*) Change dates related to certifications and distributions of state aid to schools

LB 409 (*Groene*) Change the base limitation and local effort rate for school districts

LB 484 (*Kolowski*) Create the School Financing Review Commission

LB 511 (*Education Committee*) Change provisions for payment of educational costs for state wards and students in residential settings

LB 521 (*Walz*) Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

LB 554 (*Smith*) Provide for a financial transparency website for schools, school districts, and educational service units

LB 575 (*Kolowski*) Provide funding for schools offering certain programs and courses as prescribed

LB 634 (*Wayne*) Include virtual school students in the state aid to schools formula

LB 778 (*Groene*) Require voter approval for school district building fund levies

LB 1001 (*Briese*) Provide for a review of the financing of schools

LB 1125 (*Groene*) Change school finance base limitation and local effort rate provisions

School Security

LB 247 (*Morfeld*) Provide for school district levy and bonding authority

LB 888 (*Wayne*) Require schools to post the child abuse and neglect toll-free telephone number

LB 912 (*McCollister*) Provide for posting by public schools of a toll-free telephone number set up to report child abuse and neglect

Special Education

LB 645 (*Pansing Brooks*) Add dyslexia for purposes of special education

LB 783 (*Vargas*) Define "educational interpreter" for purposes of students eligible for special education as prescribed

LB 876 (*Kolowski*) Change special education reimbursements

LB 877 (*Kolowski*) Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

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LB 14 (*Krist*) Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation

LB 155 (*Brasch*) Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation

LB 651 (*Linehan*) Adopt the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act

LB 662 (*Linehan*) Establish a grading system for schools and school districts

LB 1110 (*Vargas*) Require annual reporting of school performance scores and classifications

LB 1116 (*Linehan*) Create the Quality Education Accountability Commission and the Quality Education Accountability Office

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LR 285CA (*Murante*) Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education

Student Discipline

LB 595 (*Groene*) Provide for the use of physical force or physical restraint or removal from a class in response to student behavior

LB 1056 (*Hansen*) Provide for collection of data on student disciplinary actions

Teacher Certification

LB 109 (*Blood*) Provide for a temporary teaching certificate or permit for military spouses

LB 568 (*Erdman*) Change provisions related to temporary teaching certificates

LB 650 (*Linehan*) Change provisions for teaching certificate

LB 803 (*Stinner*) Change provisions related to kindergarten, early childhood education, and the Step Up to Quality Childcare Act

LB 1135 (*Vargas*) Adopt the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act

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LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 14	Krist	Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation	3/20/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 58	Kintner/Craighead	Change provisions relating to participation in extracurricular activities	1/30/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 62	Scheer	Eliminate prohibition on teachers wearing religious garb	1/17/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 3/27/2017	
LB 103	Murante	Change provisions relating to accelerated or differentiated curriculum and require establishment of focus groups	1/23/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 109	Blood	Provide for a temporary teaching certificate or permit for military spouses	1/23/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 119	Groene	Change dates related to certifications and distributions of state aid to schools	1/17/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 2/15/2017	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 123	Pansing Brooks	Provide for reimbursement when certain postsecondary institutions terminate operations	1/24/2017	Amended into LB 512	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 124	Baker	Increase the probationary period of community college staff	1/24/2017	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 144	Friesen	Change agricultural and horticultural adjusted valuations for calculating state aid to schools	2/6/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 155	Brasch	Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation	3/20/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 175	Morfeld	Adopt the Student Online Personal Protection Act	1/31/2017	Amended into LB 512	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 214	Halloran	Terminate the Master Teacher Program	1/31/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 235	Walz	Clarify grant requirements for the Summer Food Service Program	1/23/2017	Amended into LB 512	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 246	Morfeld	Provide a budget exception for Expanded Learning Opportunities	2/14/2017	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 247	Morfeld	Provide for school district levy and bonding authority	2/14/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 265	Friesen	Provide for a minimum amount of state aid based on the number of students in a local system	2/6/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 308	Brasch	Change provisions relating to the committee on Americanism	3/20/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 377	Education Committee	Change provisions relating to classification of school districts	1/31/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 2/14/2018	
LB 396	Morfeld	Change residency provisions relating to postsecondary educational institutions	1/24/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 398	Wayne	Provide requirements for public school districts relating to swimming activities	2/27/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 409	Groene	Change the base limitation and local effort rate for school districts	3/21/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 5/10/2017	
LB 427	Vargas	Require breastfeeding accommodations for student-parents	1/30/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 5/8/2017	
LB 428	Vargas	Require schools and the State Department of Education to Adopt policies relating to pregnant and parenting students	1/30/2017	Advanced to General File and amended into LB 427	Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 457	Briese	Change exceptions to school district levy and budget exceptions for voluntary termination agreements	1/31/2017	Amended into LB 512	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 484	Kolowski	Create the School Financing Review Commission	3/6/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 490	Walz	Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act	2/27/2017	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 511	Education Committee	Change provisions for payment of educational costs for state wards and students in residential settings	2/28/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 512	Education Committee	Change provisions related to education	2/28/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 5/22/2017	
LB 521	Walz	Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	2/28/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 525	Morfeld	Change distribution provisions related to the Education Innovation Fund	2/14/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 540	Stinner	Provide for a temporary aid adjustment factor in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEOSA)	3/21/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 554	Smith	Provide for a financial transparency web site for schools, school districts, and educational service units	2/7/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 568	Erdman	Change provisions related to temporary teaching certificates	3/14/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 569	Friesen	Establish the Community College Task Force and sunset community college levies	2/27/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 571	Friesen	Change state aid for education relating to allocated income tax funds	2/6/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 575	Kolowski	Provide funding for schools offering certain programs and courses as prescribed	2/14/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 595	Groene	Provide for the use of physical force or physical restraint or removal from a class in response to student behavior	2/7/2017	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 608	Linehan	Adopt the Parental Choice Scholarship Program	2/13/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 630	Larson	Adopt the Independent Public Schools Act	3/14/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 634	Wayne	Include virtual school students in the state aid to schools formula	3/6/2017	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 645	Pansing Brooks	Add dyslexia for purposes of special education	2/7/2017	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 5/10/2017	
LB 650	Linehan	Change provisions for teaching certificates	3/14/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 651	Linehan	Adopt the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act	3/7/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 662	Linehan	Establish a grading system for schools and school districts	3/7/2017		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 718	Halloran	Adopt the Higher Education Free Speech Accountability Act	1/30/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 737	Lindstrom	Adopt the First Responder Education Act	1/16/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 771	Walz	Adopt the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act	1/16/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 778	Groene	Require voter approval for school district building fund levies	1/16/2018	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 779	Groene	Change provisions relating to learning communities	1/22/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 783	Vargas	Define "educational interpreter" for purposes of students eligible for special education as prescribed	1/22/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 801	Stinner	Adopt the Panhandle Beginnings Act to provide certain services to school-age children	2/12/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 803	Stinner	Change provisions related to kindergarten, early childhood education, and the Step Up to Quality Childcare Act	1/22/2018	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 4/17/2018	
LB 828	Lowe	Adopt the Empowerment Savings Account Act	1/30/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 851	Linehan	Limit superintendent and educational service unit administrator compensation	1/22/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 857	Morfeld	Adopt the Campus Confidentiality Act	1/16/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 876	Kolowski	Change special education reimbursements	1/30/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 877	Kolowski	Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	1/30/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 888	Wayne	Require schools to post the child abuse and neglect toll-free telephone number	1/23/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 898	Howard	Require public postsecondary educational institutions to conduct an annual sexual assault climate survey	1/23/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 912	McCollister	Provide for posting by public schools of a toll-free telephone number set up to report child abuse and neglect	1/23/2018	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 917	Bolz	Change eligibility relating to the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act	2/6/2018	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 998	Walz	Create the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program	2/12/2018	Advanced to General File	Passed by Legislature & Vetoed by Governor 4/23/2018	
LB 999	Vargas	Change provisions relating to the Student Discipline Act	2/13/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 1001	Briese	Provide for a review of the financing of schools	2/5/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1033	Murante	Eliminate learning communities	2/26/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1052	Pansing Brooks	Require instruction and teacher education related to dyslexia	2/13/2018	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 4/17/2018	
LB 1056	Hansen	Provide for collection of data on student disciplinary actions	2/6/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1069	Brasch	Change provisions related to the Committee on Americanism	2/5/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1070	Brewer	Change an election requirement for school districts with fewer than twenty-five students in high school grades	2/5/2018	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 4/17/2018	
LB 1081	Ed. Committee	Change education provisions regarding reporting, penalties, residency, boundaries, priority schools, subpoena authority, poverty, and limited English proficiency	2/12/2018	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 4/17/2018	
LB 1094	Hilgers	Provide for financial literacy and entrepreneurship academic content standards	2/6/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LB 1103	Friesen	Provide a minimum amount of state aid for each school district	2/6/2018	Advanced to General File	Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1110	Vargas	Require annual reporting of school performance scores and classifications	2/13/2018	Advanced to General File	Governor signed into law 4/17/2018	
LB 1116	Linehan	Create the Quality Education Accountability Commission and the Quality Education Accountability Office	2/13/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1125	Groene	Change school finance base limitation and local effort rate provisions	2/26/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LB 1135	Vargas	Adopt the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act	2/5/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LR 270CA	Kolowski	Constitutional amendment to reduce the minimum age in the constitutional requirement to provide free instruction	1/23/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	
LR 285CA	Murante	Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education	2/20/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	

LB/LR	INTRODUCER	ONE-LINER	HEARING DATE	COMMITTEE DISPOSITION	FINAL DISPOSITION	COMMENTS
LR 291	Kolowski	Recommend that school administrators, teachers, parents, and students be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks	2/20/2018		Indefinitely Postponed	

BILLS ENACTED INTO LAW

LB 62 (Scheer) Eliminate prohibition on teachers wearing religious garb

LB 62 repeals sections 79-898 and 79-899 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

79-898 prohibits a teacher from wearing any dress or garb in school or while engaged in the performance of his or her duty that identifies the teacher as a member or adherent of any religious order, sect or denomination. Violation of this section results in being found guilty of a misdemeanor and can be fined up to \$100, costs of prosecution or a jail term not exceeding 30 days.

79-899 states that a teacher found guilty under 79-898 shall be suspended for a year for a first offense and permanently disqualified from teaching at that school. Any school board member refusing to comply with this section is guilty of a Class V misdemeanor and can be fined up to \$100 and the costs of prosecution. Under LB 810, a retailer who serves alcohol to a noticeably intoxicated adult is liable for any resulting injury, death, or damage if the retailer was negligent or reckless in serving the intoxicated adult.

LB 62 advanced to General File by a 5-0 vote with 3 members absent. LB 62 was signed by the governor on March 27, 2017.

LB 119 (Groene) Change dates related to certifications and distributions of state aid to schools

LB 119 would delay the deadline for certifying state aid, budget authority, and applicable allowable reserve percentages under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) from March 1st to June 1st for 2017 only. LB 119 advanced from the Education Committee by a 5-0 vote with 3 members absent on January 23, 2017. The bill was passed on Final Reading by the Legislature by a 45-0 vote with 4 members not voting on February 13, 2017, upon which date the bill was presented to the Governor for his signature.

The governor signed the bill into law on February 5, 2017.

LB 377 (Education Committee) Change provisions relating to classification of school districts

LB 377 eliminates Class I, II and VI districts, with the remaining Class II districts becoming Class III districts. All districts now will be classified as either Class III, IV or V. Under LB377, Class III districts will have fewer than 150,000 inhabitants and maintain elementary and high school grades under a single school board.

Class IV districts are those with a population of 100,000 or more that maintain elementary and high school grades. Class V districts have a metropolitan-class city, and their employees

participate in a separate retirement system. Lincoln Public Schools will be the only remaining Class IV district, and Omaha Public Schools will be the only remaining Class V district.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote and takes effect Jan. 1, 2019.

LB 409 (Groene) Change the base limitation and local effort rate for school districts

LB 409 would revise the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA), by reducing the base limitation rate for school districts found under section 77-3446 to 0% for school fiscal year 2017-18 and 2018-19. The effect of this change would be to decrease the amount of TEEOSA Aid provided by the state to school districts for 2017-18 and 2018-19. The budget growth for 2017-18 would be 2.5%.

LB 409 also amends section 79-1015.01 (**Local system formula resources; local effort rate yield; determination**) to change the local effort rate from \$1.00 to \$1.01 for the purposes of increasing the level of resources available to school districts for school fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

LB 409 contains an emergency clause which requires passage with at least 33 votes on Final Reading. LB 409 was amended in Committee by AM 955 which made the following changes:

- Changed the base limitation rate under the bill from “0” to “1.5%”, the current rate is set at 2.5%;
- Changed the Local Effort Rate from “1.01” to “1.02030”, the current rate is at “1.00”;
- Reduced Net Option Funding by 4.5%, and finally;
- Would clarify that Community Achievement Aid is to be considered as a resource, which would have an impact when determining Transition Aid.

LB 409 as amended by AM955 was advanced from Committee by an 8-0 vote. The governor signed the bill into law on May 10, 2017.

LB 427 (Vargas) Require breastfeeding accommodations for student-parents

LB 427 is a bill that would expand the current law that allows a mother to breast-feed her child in any public or private location where she otherwise is authorized to be, to include mothers who attend public, private, denominational or parochial day schools. The bill would require those schools to provide private or appropriate facilities or accommodation for milk expression and storage for their students. LB 427 was advanced from Committee by a 6-2 vote. LB 427 was amended on general file by AM739, which added provisions from LB 428 to require school districts to adopt a written policy providing standards and guidelines to accommodate pregnant and parenting students.

School policies would be required to include the minimum standards contained in a model policy that would be developed by the state Department of Education. At a minimum, the policy would provide for student absences due to pregnancy and allow students to return to school and participate in extracurricular activities after pregnancy. It also would provide alternative methods for keeping pregnant or parenting students in the classroom by allowing them to complete coursework at home or by providing online classes or visits from tutors. AM739 was adopted 27-9.

LB 427 was passed by the Legislature on May 2, 2017 and was signed into law by the governor on May 8, 2017.

LB 512 (Education Committee) Change provisions related to education

LB 512 was introduced at the request of the Nebraska Department of Education and would make the following changes to the Nebraska Revised statutes:

- The bill amends section 9-812 to eliminate outdated language and to eliminate limitation of a specific fiscal year that NDE may use improvement funds for the ACT,
- Amends section 79-237 to permit “current year” application for Enrollment Option Program,
- Amends section 79-2,144 to extend the date for completion of the assessment of every public school building by the NDE state school security director by 2 years to reflect budget cuts,
- Amends section 79-319 for State Board duties to include language required under current federal law for Perkins career and technical education and permit the Legislature to outright repeal 8 sections of statute (79-321, 79-738, 79-739, 79-740, 79-741, 79-742, 79-743, 79-744) that were adopted to comply with federal law in the 1950's for "vocational education",
- Amends Section 79-575 to permit a school board to designate someone else to carry out the duties set forth in that section of statute for the secretary of the school board,
- Amends a definition in Section 79-1003 for TEEOSA to strike the "best practices allowance" which is to be implemented in 2021-22, in the formula and to eliminate outdated language,
- Eliminates references to “best practices allowance” in statute; · Amends section 79-1054 to eliminate reference to the "best practice allowance" from an innovative grant awarded to be included in TEEOSA that would occur in the 2021-22 TEEOSA certification of aid,
- Amends two sections of statute that would permit NDE to utilize state funds for special education for a specific school district to repay the US Department of Education for that school district's failure to meet federal maintenance of effort requirements for IDEA instead of the school district having to send state funds to NDE and then NDE having to send those state funds to US Department of Education,
- Amends Section 79-1108.02 to strike the reference to section 9-812 (lottery funds) as being the source for high ability aid funds as high ability funds are now general funds,

LB 512 was amended in Committee to add LB 123 (Pansing Brooks), LB 175 (Morfeld), LB 235 (Walz), LB 398 (Wayne), LB 457 (Briese) and a provision to amend our Veteran's Postsecondary tuition provisions which utilize Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to meet federal compliance. LB 512 advanced to Select File on a 32-2-10 vote.

AM970 (Sen. Briese) was adopted on select file and would for fiscal year 2018'-19', exempt from budget and levy limits the amounts levied to pay for 75 percent of the funds used for voluntary termination agreements. That would decrease to 50 percent for FY2019-20 and 25 percent for FY2020-21.

AM1083 (Sen. Harr) was also adopted on select file and would allow school districts already at their maximum levy to exempt from budget and levy limitations up to \$35,000 of payments for a teacher's voluntary termination agreement that is not part of a collective bargaining agreement. The provision would not apply to administrators.

On final reading, LB 512 was returned to Select File for a specific amendment, AM1346. AM1346 included the provisions contained in the previously adopted AM 970 and AM1083, as by procedure AM1083 was deemed to have replaced AM970 as both amendments addressed the same section of statute, the amendment adopted last is deemed to be the intent of the legislature. AM1346 also returned the requirement that school districts demonstrate to the state board of education that the payment of incentives in exchange for a voluntary termination of employment will result in a net savings in salary and benefit costs to the district over a five-year period, as well as the requirement to report all incentives paid in exchange for voluntary terminations of employment on the annual financial report, which requirements were already in statute but had been removed under LB 457 as introduced. AM1346 was adopted by a 42-0 vote and was passed on Final Reading. LB 512 was signed by the governor on May 22, 2017.

LB 645 (Pansing Brooks) Add dyslexia for purposes of special education

LB 645 would add dyslexia to the list of defined disabilities, which includes blindness, deafness and autism. Dyslexia would be defined, in part, as a learning disability that is characterized by difficulty with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. LB 645 was advanced from Education Committee with AM106 attached, which amendment was technical in nature and tied the term dyslexia to the list of specific learning disabilities contained in subdivision (13) under section 79-1118.0. AM106 was adopted and LB 645 was advanced from the Education Committee by an 8-0 vote.

LB 645 was signed by the governor on May 10, 2017.

LB 803 (Stinner) Change provisions related to kindergarten, early childhood education, and the Step Up to Quality Childcare Act

LB 803 as amended authorizes the state Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations that exempt a prekindergarten program from the requirement that all teachers and administrators in prekindergarten programs hold a valid certificate or permit. The bill passed on a vote of 47-0.

LB 998 (Walz) Create the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program

LB 998 provides for a collaborative school behavioral and mental health program and also creates a fund. The program will begin once the initiative receives \$3.6 million in funding, each ESU or the ESU coordinating council may hire a social worker who would train teachers and school personnel and work with parents, schools, behavioral and mental health care providers to connect students with services and other resources. As amended on select file, the program's funding would be limited to private donations, and the program would "sunset" in 2022.

Social workers hired under the program may use screening and assessment tools to identify students in need of services and assist in matching students with appropriate health care providers.

The coordinating council will solicit annual program plans from each ESU, identify evidence-based best practices in interventions for students, coordinate training for social workers and other school personnel and complete annual evaluations of the program. It also will create and maintain a statewide map of behavioral and mental health services.

Each school district with which a social worker interacts is required designate a contact person for that social worker at each school in the district.

As amended on select file, 26-5, both public and private schools may participate in the program, and the state Department of Education will administer the fund.

The bill passed on a vote of 31-15.

LB 1052 (Pansing Brooks) Require instruction and teacher education related to dyslexia

LB 1052 would require schools to provide students who are identified as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia with evidence-based literacy instruction using a multisensory approach. A technical assistance document created and distributed by the state Department of Education would provide guidance on that instruction.

The document also would provide information on dyslexia's characteristics, its associated conditions and indicators and the screening, evaluation, instruction and intervention for dyslexia. Information would be distributed to all school districts, educational service units and teacher education programs in the state to promote awareness of dyslexia.

LB 1070 (Brewer) Change an election requirement for school districts with fewer than twenty-five students in high school grades

LB 1070 changes the election requirements in school districts which have an average daily membership of less than 25 students in grades nine through twelve which maintain the only high school in the county. Current law requires an annual districtwide election to continue operation of a high school with less than 25 students. LB 1070 provides for the issue to be voted upon every four years. In the intervening years, the school board shall annually determine if such a districtwide election is necessary.

LB 1081 (Education Committee) Change education provisions regarding reporting, penalties, residency, boundaries, priority schools, subpoena authority, poverty, and limited English proficiency

LB 1081 would require the Learning Community coordinating council to file an annual financial report with the department and would authorize the commissioner of education to direct that learning community funds be withheld if the report is not filed. It also would require the coordinating council to complete an audit of its books, accounts, records and affairs at least once every three years.

LB 1081 also provides that the department no longer would be required to file several reports with the coordinating council, including a census count of 5- to 18-year-olds, an end-of-the-school-year annual statistical summary, an annual financial report and a fall membership report.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that school districts submit poverty and limited English proficiency plans to the department and the coordinating council.

LB 1081 also increases the number of schools that the state Board of Education currently may designate as priority schools from no “more than” three schools to “no less” than three schools. This bill would also reduce from five to three the number of years that a school can be designated a priority school before the board reevaluates the school’s progress plan.

Finally, LB 1081 would require school boards to collaborate with the county attorney for the county in which they are located to review the rules and standards for student conduct that would require the school to contact law enforcement if a student displays such conduct.

Sen. Linehan filed AM2593 on general file, which was adopted 33-0, that included provisions from her LB 651, which is to provide interventions for students identified as having a reading deficiency.

The amendment would require each school district to administer an approved reading assessment three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through third grade. Students who score below a set threshold would be identified as having a reading deficiency, and school districts would be required to provide those students with a supplemental reading intervention program.

LB 1110 (Vargas) Require annual reporting of school performance scores and classifications

LB1110 amends Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-760.06, the Quality Education Accountability Act, to require the State Board of Education to report school and district performance data and scores annually. LB1110 also adds a deadline for the reports required under the section by December 31st of each calendar year.

BILLS ADVANCED TO SELECT FILE

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BILLS ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE

LB 246 (Morfeld) Provide a budget exception for Expanded Learning Opportunities

LB 246 would allow schools with more than one thousand students to exceed its budget by expenditures up to \$100,000 and schools with less than one thousand students to exceed its budget by expenditures up to \$50,000 for expanded, school based opportunities for students. LB 246 failed to advance from General File.

LB 428 (Vargas) Require schools and the State Department of Education to adopt policies relating to pregnant and parenting students

LB 428 would require school districts to adopt a written policy providing standards and guidelines to accommodate pregnant and parenting students. The bill would direct the state Department of Education to develop and distribute a model policy to districts that they could implement. At a minimum, the policy would require districts to provide for student absences due to pregnancy and eliminate requirements for physician approval to return to school or participate in extracurricular activities after pregnancy. They also would be required to provide alternative methods for keeping pregnant or parenting students in the classroom by allowing them to complete coursework at home or by providing online classes or visits from tutors.

The model policy developed under LB 428 would require districts to ensure that students have private, hygienic spaces to express breast milk during the school day. Finally, if schools do not have an in-school child care facility, the proposed policy would identify local child care providers or designate staff to assist student parents in placing their children in child care facilities that collaborate with the school.

The department's model policy would be developed and distributed to districts by Dec. 1, 2017, and individual districts would be required to adopt a policy by May 1, 2018. The policies would be implemented at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

In addition to creating a model policy, the department also would offer training for teachers, counselors and administrators on school districts' adopted policies. Provisions from LB 428 were amended into LB 427, to require school districts to adopt a written policy providing standards and guidelines to accommodate pregnant and parenting students. LB 428 failed to advance from General File

LB 595 (Groene) Provide for the use of physical force or physical restraint or removal from a class in response to student behavior

LB 595 would allow teachers and administrators to use physical force to restrain or subdue a student that becomes physically violent toward himself or herself, another student, a teacher or an administrator. A teacher or administrator also could physically restrain a student who is

destroying school property. The proposal would allow a teacher to remove a student from class if the student's behavior interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate with students or with the students' ability to learn.

A student removed from a classroom for disruptive behavior could not return the student to the classroom from which they were removed without the teacher's consent.

The bill would prevent legal action or administrative discipline against teachers who protect students or themselves, protect school property or remove a disruptive student from a classroom. LB 595 was amended in committee by AM581 which made the following changes: Teacher or administrator conduct is only not subject to legal or administrative action if such conduct was reasonable.

Further, a student can still be removed from the classroom by the teacher. However, upon removal from the classroom, the principal may place the student into another classroom, into in-school suspension, or out of school suspension. The student cannot be returned to the original classroom without the teacher's permission unless required by the Special Education Act or the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act. If the teacher does not consent to the student's return, within two school days following the student's removal, a conference shall be held between the teacher, principal or principal's designee and student's parent or legal guardian to discuss the student's behavior and develop a program to improve the same. Following the conference, the principal may readmit the student to the teacher's class.

LB 595 as amended was advanced to General File by a 7-2 vote, with 1 member present but not voting. LB 595 failed to advance from general file.

LB 778 (Groene) Require voter approval for school district building fund levies

LB 778 would limit a special school building fund levy. Under current law, school boards may levy up to 14 cents per \$100 of property valuation to establish a special fund for acquiring sites for school buildings, purchasing existing buildings for use as school buildings and the erection, alteration, equipping and furnishing of school buildings.

LB 778 would restrict the use of the fund to repairs and alterations that do not add space to a school building and to equip or furnish school buildings. LB 778 was amended in committee by AM 2098, which amendment would replace the underlying bill and would limit the levy to five cents and add to the list of authorized purposes major replacement repairs on existing structures.

LB 778 stalled on general file after a failed cloture motion.

LB 1103 (Friesen) Provide a minimum amount of state aid for each school district

LB 1103 would ensure that each school district would receive no less than 25 percent of its basic funding needs, as calculated by the state's school aid formula, in the form of state aid. LB 1103 is an attempt to address the state's overreliance on property taxes to fund public education and the dramatic shift in that tax burden to agricultural landowners over the past decade. As a result of that shift, he said, about 70 percent of the state's 244 school districts receive no equalization aid, which is state aid intended to cover the needs of school districts that cannot be met by other resources, such as property taxes.

Sen. Friesen filed AM2808 to substitute an amendment he had introduced with another amendment by Sen. Tom Briese. The amendment would replace LB 1103 as introduced with provisions of LB1084 and would raise the state sales tax rate from 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent, raise taxes on a pack of cigarettes from 64 cents to \$2.14 and impose a surtax on those earning at least \$500,000.

The amendment would direct the additional tax proceeds to the state's property tax credit fund and to school aid.

It would limit the amount that school districts could request in property taxes each year, and it would require the state Department of Education to oversee an in-depth review of the financing of public elementary and secondary schools.

LB 1103 failed to advance from general file for lack of time!

BILLS HELD IN COMMITTEE

LB 103 (Murante) Change provisions relating to accelerated or differentiated curriculum and require establishment of focus groups

LB 103 would require each school district in a learning community that offers an accelerated or differentiated curriculum program to create a high-ability learners focus group. The focus groups would consist of teachers, parents and administrators and also may include representatives from organizations that advocate for meeting the educational needs of high-ability learners. The groups would look for ways that parents and students can play a role in their district's accelerated or differentiated curriculum program and study issues related to high-ability learners.

The bill would require school districts to provide the focus groups with the district's criteria for identifying students with high ability and the number of those students participating in accelerated programs. It also would require districts to disclose how much they spend on programs for high-ability learners.

LB 109 (Blood) Provide for a temporary teaching certificate or permit for military spouses

LB 109 would amend section 79-813 in order to provide for a process that issues temporary teaching certificates or permits to military spouses if those spouses meets the comparable and equivalent requirements to teach in Nebraska. The certificate is valid for six months, allowing the recipient the time needed to receive their permanent certificate or permit to be issued.

LB 123 (Pansing Brooks) Provide for reimbursement when certain postsecondary institutions terminate operations

LB 123 would authorize the Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education to assess a fee on for-profit post-secondary institutions that have a physical presence in the state and direct the proceeds to a cash fund. The commission then would receive, evaluate and pay claims to students to recover lost tuition and fees resulting from the closure of a for-profit institution.

Each for-profit postsecondary institution would be assessed the fee until the cash fund reaches a minimum of \$250,000; the fund would be capped at \$500,000. Schools would be required to maintain a surety bond to provide protection to students until the fund reaches the minimum level.

The bill also would require that student records be maintained and transferred when a school closes. Finally, it would require for-profit institutions, if they close, to reimburse the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund for academic terms not completed by students who received awards from the fund. *(LB 123 was amended into LB 512)*

LB 144 (Friesen) Change agricultural and horticultural adjusted valuations for calculating state aid to schools

LB 144 lowers the percentage of actual value of agricultural and horticultural land for purposes of TEEOSA as follows:

- In school fiscal years prior to FY 2018-19, the percentage is 72%;
- FY 2018-19, the percentage is 50%;
- FY 2019-20, the percentage is 40%;
- FY 2020-21, the percentage is 30%;
- FY 2021-22, the percentage is 20%.

LB 175 (Morfeld) Adopt the Student Online Personal Protection Act

LB 175 is a bill that would implement the Nebraska version of a Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA), which would prohibit technology companies who contract with schools from using student data and student information for targeted advertising or creating student profiles for non-educational purposes such as for providing credit or insurance. *(LB 175 was amended into LB 512)*

LB 214 (Halloran) Terminate the Master Teacher Program

LB 214 would end the master teacher program, which provides aid to teachers seeking a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards credential.

Teachers who apply for the program are eligible to receive an award amounting to 50 percent of the registration fees. They may apply for an award to receive the other half of the fees after completing the program. After fees are reimbursed, the remainder of the fund is used to pay a \$5,000 salary bonus to teachers who have the credential.

The Legislature appropriated \$500,000 to the program in fiscal year 2015-16 and again in FY2016-17.

LB 235 (Walz) Clarify grant requirements for the Summer Food Service Program

LB 235 would authorize sponsors of a summer food service program to spend a grant's full amount when starting or expanding a child nutrition program. Currently sponsors of a summer food service program are eligible to apply for up to \$15,000 in grants annually to expand or start additional programs. Qualifying expenses include equipment, staff salaries, training and vehicles used to transport food.

Under current rules, sponsors must prorate their expenses. For example, if a sponsor needed to buy a refrigerator that would only be used during the summer, the grant would cover only a fraction of its cost to correspond with the days of use, leaving the program to come up with the remaining amount of funding to make the purchase. It is believed that the changes made under LB 235 allow for more low-income students to be served notably in rural Nebraska according to the introducer. *(LB 235 was amended into LB 512)*

LB 247 (Morfeld) Provide for school district levy and bonding authority

LB 247 would add the ability for schools to levy for bonding purposes, improvements to address cybersecurity vulnerability under this section. LB 247 would also add school administration buildings as locations that may receive repairs and improvements under this section. Currently only existing school buildings or the grounds of such existing school buildings may utilize the funding mechanism. The expansion of levy and bonding authority under this section must fit within the three cent, per one hundred dollars of valuation limitation currently provided under section 79-10,110.02.

LB 265 (Friesen) Provide for a minimum amount of state aid based on the number of students in a local system

LB 265 would direct \$1,500 per student to school districts beginning with fiscal year 2018-19. The amount would increase incrementally each year until it reaches \$5,500 in FY2022-23. The bill would increase state aid to public schools by an estimated \$71.8 million in FY2018-19 and by \$152.6 million in FY2019-20.

LB 396 (Morfeld) Change residency provisions relating to postsecondary educational institutions

LB396 changes the determination of residency for state postsecondary institutions. LB396 provides that if a student has received an associate, bachelors, masters, doctoral degree, or the equivalent from any accredited college or university in the State of Nebraska, they would be considered a resident.

LB 398 (Wayne) Provide requirements for public school districts relating to swimming activities

LB 398 requires certification of swimming instructors and lifeguards at swimming pools located inside a public school and also provides for the requirement of certified swimming instructors and lifeguards during public school swimming activities. LB 398 was amended in the Education Committee to require that a certified lifeguard be present during school sponsored swimming activities. *(LB 398 was amended into LB 512)*

LB 457 (Briese) Change exceptions to school district levy and budget exceptions for voluntary termination agreements

LB 457 would remove the exemption from budget and levy limitations, voluntary termination agreements that are allowed under Nebraska Revised Statutes sections 77-3442, 79-1003, and 79-1028. *(LB 457 was amended into LB 512)*

LB 484 (Kolowski) Create the School Financing Review Commission

LB 484 would create the School Financing Review Commission to examine the option of using income and sales taxes to fund public schools and to examine school financing methods used in other states to avoid an overreliance on property taxes. The commission also would explore options for funding pre-kindergarten services and college- and career-readiness programs.

The commission's 20 members, would include, three senators, one representative of the governor, the state property tax administrator and school representatives, who would be appointed by the commissioner for education. The commission would disband Dec. 31, 2016,

The commission would submit a progress report to the Legislature by Dec. 31, 2017. A final report with recommendations would be due Dec. 1, 2018, to the governor, the State Board of Education and the Legislature. The Commission would also be tasked to provide on or before July 1 of each even-numbered year beginning in 2020, a report on the adequacy of school funding sources.

The Legislature would appropriate at least \$100,000 to the commission to carry out its duties.

LB 511 (Education Committee) Change provisions for payment of educational costs for state wards and students in residential settings

LB 511 amends several statutes that pertain to the education requirement of State Wards. This bill also attempts to bring the state into compliance with the federal requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

LB 521 (Walz) Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

LB 521 seeks to provide additional funding for Early Childhood education by creating an Early Childhood Allowance and increasing the amount available for Early Childhood State Aid under TEEOSA. This dual approach would make additional funding available to both equalized and non-equalized school districts for early childhood education by providing both an "allowance" and "aid" components. LB 521 would also allow ESU's to provide Early Childhood classes, with the students and the associated expenditure of a remaining with the school district from where the children came.

LB 525 (Morfeld) Change distribution provisions related to the Education Innovation Fund

LB 525 would reduce from 17% to 16% the percentage of Lottery Funds directed towards Innovation Grants administered by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). LB 525 would direct the one percent of lottery funds deducted from the Innovation Grants to the funding of the Master Teacher Program, which is currently funded by \$470,000 of General Funds.

LB 525 also amends section 79-8,129 to provide for the receipt of the 1% of lottery funds that was deducted from the Innovation Grants and is to be applied towards the funding of the Master

Teacher Program Fund created under this section. It is estimated by the Legislative Fiscal Office that the 1% to be diverted under this act would amount to roughly \$216,000 in 2017-18’.

LB 540 (Stinner) Provide for a temporary aid adjustment factor in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA)

LB 540 would provide for a reduction of the “Formula Needs” of a school district under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) by a yet to be determined amount as well as to reduce the Allocated Income Tax amount distributed to a school system by the amount of the Temporary Aid Adjustment Factor, with the total amount being unknown at this time. The Temporary Aid Adjustment under this bill would be in effect for school fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

LB 554 (Smith) Provide for a financial transparency website for schools, school districts, and educational service units

LB 554 would require the State Board of Education to contract for the creation of a web site that, at a minimum, translates expenditures for schools, school districts and educational service units into a format that is readable by a layperson. The bill requires the establishment of an advisory committee on financial policies and procedures to work with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the contracting entity. The web site is to be available before July 1, 2018 and is to be updated annually.

LB 568 (Erdman) Change provisions related to temporary teaching certificates

LB 568 would create a new temporary teaching certificate for substitute teachers called the Temporary Substitute Teacher’s Certificate. This teaching certificate satisfies the need to recruit more substitute teachers for both private and public schools. LB 568 would provide that beginning August 1, 2018 the Nebraska State Board of Education may issue a temporary teaching certificate that is valid for 5 years, which is an increase from the current 2 year time period. LB 568 provides that qualifications for the temporary certificate created under this act as follows:

1. The applicant must be 21 years old;
2. Have a valid high school diploma;
3. Complete 24 hours of in-service training;
4. Complete 10 hours of classroom observation at the elementary, middle and high school level for a total of 30 hours;
5. Complete and pass a course on the U.S. Constitution that is administered by the department with a score of at least 80%;
6. Complete and pass a course on the Neb. Constitution that is administered by the department with a score of at least 80%;
7. Submit fingerprints for the purpose of criminal history background check provided under section 79-814.01;
8. Complete and application for a “Temporary Teaching Certificate”;
9. Submit an application fee not to exceed \$80 for a resident who has resided in Nebraska

for 2 years or \$100 for any other applicant.

LB 569 (Friesen) Establish the Community College Task Force and sunset community college levies

LB 569 would establish a nine-member Community College Task Force for the purpose of evaluating duplication of educational services and funding sources for community colleges. The task force is to develop a report by December 1, 2018 outlining findings related to duplication of educational services, cost of funding duplicate services, and cost of outstanding bond obligations. The report is also to recommend alternative funding mechanisms for community colleges. The task force would terminate on January 1, 2020.

In addition to provisions relating to the Community College Task Force, LB 569 provides that the authority of community college area boards to levy property taxes would be eliminated after FY2019-20.

LB 571 (Friesen) Change state aid for education relating to allocated income tax funds

LB 571 would increase the amount of school district residents' income taxes collected and returned to school districts as allocated income tax funds. Presently, roughly 2% of a district residents' income tax liability is used for school funding purposes. The bill increases it to 20% which was the percentage when the TEEOSA formula was created.

LB 575 (Kolowski) Provide funding for schools offering certain programs and courses as prescribed

LB 575 would provide implementation grants for programs of excellence and reimbursements based on the students successfully completing such programs.

LB 608 (Linehan) Adopt the Parental Choice Scholarship Program

LB 608 would allow K-12 students zoned to the lowest performing schools in the state, based on the Nebraska Department of Education's accountability system, to take a portion of the per-pupil funding provided to the school identified as failing as a scholarship and use those funds to attend a school of their family's choice, including a state approved or accredited private school. If the previously identified failing school improves so that it no longer falls into the lowest performing school status, students zoned to that school, but not yet taking advantage of the scholarship, would no longer be eligible. A student taking advantage of this act, may continue to attend the private school on scholarship until graduation or upon reaching age 21, whichever comes first. Students participating in the scholarship program are counted as students in their school district of residence for purposes of state aid calculated pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA).

The scholarship amount paid by a resident district to a private participating school is the lesser of: 75% anticipated revenue per student for the school year or actual cost of tuition, books, and uniforms. Resident school districts are responsible for transportation. Resident school districts

are to establish property tax relief funds with the other 25% of the anticipated revenue per student. The fund is to be used to reduce the property tax request in the following year after the school district budget has been adopted

LB 630 (Larson) Adopt the Independent Public Schools Act

LB 630 would create the Independent Public Schools Act to authorize independent public schools. Each school would be managed by a board of trustees pursuant to a compact granted by the Independent Public School Authorizing and Accountability Commission (Commission) or the local school district in which the Independent Public School operates. Funding would be provided by the resident school districts of the students.

LB 634 (Wayne) Include virtual school students in the state aid to schools formula

LB 634 is a bill that would place in statute a definition of Virtual Schools and implement a procedure for reporting the attendance of virtual school students based on the number of classes attended under the calculation procedure for state aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA).

LB 650 (Linehan) Change provisions for teaching certificate

LB 650 would provide that in addition to the certificates provided under 79-806 to 79-815 the State Board of Education will expand the manner in which a person could obtain a teaching certificate by creating an Alternative Certificate and an Adjunct Teaching Certificate. Teaching certificates would be granted under this act upon passage of an appropriate subject area examination designed by the State Board of Education, as well as for the following:

- For college credit earned;
- To a person who presents a valid doctoral degree accredited by a regional accrediting agency, though the certificate will be limited to the area of study of the degree;
- To a person holding a valid teaching certificate issued by a national or regional educator credentialing agency approved by the Board, the certificate is required to be annually maintained;
- To any person who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state and who annually completes the requirements to maintain either the certification from such other state or certification pursuant to rules and regulations of the board;
- Pursuant to an alternative certification program approved by the board; and
- To any person who has at least two years of teaching experience at the postsecondary level.

LB 650 would also create an “Adjunct Teaching Certificate” and would be available to those individuals who are subject area experts as proved through passage of subject area exams identified by the Board. The Adjunct Teaching Certificate is only valid for part-time teaching positions. The Certificate is valid for five years and is renewable upon satisfactory performance during each year of the certificate.

LB 662 (Linehan) Establish a grading system for schools and school districts

LB 662 would create an A-F school grading and accountability system applicable to all public schools and districts in Nebraska. School grades would be based on student performance measures, to include growth (improvement) from year to year, as well as graduation rates. The Nebraska Department of Education would be responsible for creating recognition awards for high performing schools and would also be responsible for creating school and district report cards to be made available to the public.

Each school earning a grade of A or having improved at least two grade levels shall have greater authority over the allocation of the school's total budget, state categorical funds, grants and local funds as specified by NDE.

LB 718 (Halloran) Adopt the Higher Education Free Speech Accountability Act

LB 718 would require the University of Nebraska to adopt a detailed policy governing free expression on its campuses.

LB 718 also would require the University of Nebraska's Board of Regents to create a nine-member committee that would submit an annual report to the Legislature, the governor and the university's governing body. The report would describe any "barriers to or incidents of disruption of free expression" and what disciplinary action was taken against those determined to be responsible. The report would be posted on the university's website.

LB 737 (Lindstrom) Adopt the First Responder Education Act

LB 737 would allow first responders in the State of Nebraska to receive a 30% tuition waiver to any state university, state college, or community college in the State of Nebraska. To be eligible, the first responder must maintain satisfactory performance with his or her agency, be working toward an associate or baccalaureate degree in fire protection or emergency management and meet all admission requirements.

LB 771 (Walz) Adopt the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act

LB 771, would provide that public schools participating in the federal school breakfast and lunch programs would provide students eligible for reduced-price breakfasts and lunches with meals at no cost. The state Department of Education would use state general funds to reimburse each school the amount that otherwise would be charged to the student.

LB 779 (Groene) Change provisions relating to learning communities

LB 779 pertains to learning communities. The bill eliminates a provision which provides that no more than 10% of the authorized levy of up to 1.5 cents may be used for elementary learning center employees. The bill also repeals language requiring a learning community to approve or disapprove poverty and limited English proficiency plans of member school districts. New language provides for a learning community to offer suggestions to improve poverty or limited

English proficiency plans and the coordination between the plans and the community achievement plan.

LB 783 (Vargas) Define "educational interpreter" for purposes of students eligible for special education as prescribed

LB 783 defines educational interpreter for purposes of rules and regulations pertaining to interpreters provided to deaf and hard of hearing children in school district and educational service unit programs. The State Department of Education (NDE) indicates a rule will need to be revised to reflect the definition of educational interpreter. It is assumed NDE has sufficient staff and resources to handle the revision of an existing rule.

LB 801 (Stinner) Adopt the Panhandle Beginnings Act to provide certain services to school-age children

LB 801 is the Panhandle Beginnings Act. The act establishes a pilot project to provide therapeutic school, day treatment and intensive outpatient services for school-age children in a therapeutic facility in the Panhandle of Nebraska. The bill provides intent language to fund the project in FY2018-19 through FY2022-23 with the expectation it will reach self-sufficiency and be replicated in other areas of the state.

The pilot project provides services to enrollees through the end of the school year when they reach age 21 with preference given to those residing within Region I Behavioral Health Authority or Educational Service Unit #13 service areas. An enrollee must meet prescribed requirements to be admitted to the program and must be verified as a student with a disability.

The program is to be collaborative with other governmental agencies and private mental health and behavioral health providers. A portion of the educational component of the program may include an outreach specialist. The length of stay is individualized with an expectation of 21 to 90 days within the therapeutic day treatment setting.

The bill establishes a seven member Panhandle Beginnings Advisory Board. The board is to appoint a clinical director to administer the day treatment program and a principal to administer the day school. It is charged with adopting rules and procedures for the management of the board and with keeping a record of proceedings.

LB 828 (Lowe) Adopt the Empowerment Savings Act

LB 828 creates the Empowerment Saving Account Act. The bill allows a parent or guardian of a student in a school district which is classified by the State Board of Education (NDE) at the lowest performance level to apply to NDE to have the department establish an empowerment savings account for a child who is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Low performing school districts are to place 3% of the anticipated state average per pupil spending into each account established for an eligible student. Payments are to be made from funds available to the district and a district is not to seek additional revenue to fund such payments.

Parents and guardians have access to a student's account via a debit card. The bill allows the accounts to be used for online programs approved by NDE, educational therapy or services, tutoring, testing fees and bank fees charged to manage the accounts. Parents submit itemized receipts for expenditures and school districts maintain records of all expenditures and keep the records for audit purposes. Any unused funds are returned to the school district on the last day of a school fiscal year. NDE may adopt rules and regulations to carry out the act.

LB 851 (Linehan) Limit superintendent and educational service unit administrator compensation

LB 851 would limit salary and benefits packages for superintendents and educational service unit administrators to five times the amount a beginning teacher would make in a given district or ESU.

LB 857 (Morfeld) Adopt the Campus Confidentiality Act

LB 857 requires that the respective governing boards of the University of Nebraska, Nebraska State Colleges and community colleges develop and adopt policies that provide for confidential advisors to whom students can report sexually-oriented criminal offenses in a confidential and safe environment. The bill outlines the necessary items to be included in such policy and also provides that a campus with fewer than five thousand students can partner with another organization to provide services outlined in this act.

LB 857 also requires that each governing board adopt an amnesty policy for students who in good faith make reports of sexual violence to the institution. The policy shall provide that a student shall not be sanctioned by the institution for any nonviolent student conduct violations, revealed in the course of making or investigating a report.

LB 876 (Kolowski) Change special education reimbursements

LB 876 would require the state to reimburse school districts at least 80 percent of the total excess allowable costs for those programs and services.

LB 877 (Kolowski) Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

LB 877 seeks to incentivize all districts to provide early childhood education. The bill provides incentives to consider higher quality and longer periods of time for pre-schools. The bill would make available state assistance for early childhood programs for all school districts. Early childhood education students would be weighted as a full student rather than the current sixty percent. Equalized districts would be paid through TEEOSA, and non-equalized districts would be paid through an early childhood education aid. School districts would be eligible to receive fifty percent of additional transportation costs for pre-school children.

LB 888 (Wayne) Require schools to post the child abuse and neglect toll-free telephone number

LB 888 would require every public school to post a sign with the Child Abuse Hotline number in English and Spanish. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to adopt rules and regulations relating to the size and location of the sign.

LB 898 (Howard) Require public postsecondary educational institutions to conduct an annual sexual assault climate survey

LB 898 requires that public post-secondary educational institutions conduct an annual sexual assault climate survey with reporting requirements of such survey. LB 898 also requires training for employees who are involved in the grievance process for sexual assault or violence.

LB 912 (McCollister) Provide for posting by public schools of a toll-free telephone number set up to report child abuse and neglect

LB 912 provides that school districts may post a sign in English and Spanish containing the toll-free telephone number established by the Department of Health and Human Services to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. In lieu of displaying a poster, the school may post a link to the poster on its website. The bill requires the Nebraska Council of School Administrators to develop the poster containing the toll-free number and display it on their website in a format that can be downloaded.

LB 917 (Bolz) Change eligibility relating to the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act

LB 917 expands the courses eligible for funding under the Community College Gap Assistance Program to include specific for-credit courses or short-term programs that lead to certifications, licenses, or skill levels equivalent to the non-credit programs.

LB 999 (Vargas) Change provisions relating to the Student Discipline Act

LB 999 would make numerous changes to the Student Discipline Act that include definitions, provide for stricter timelines and documentation requirements and ensure that a student can make up missed work due to disciplinary actions.

LB 1001 (Briese) Provide for a review of the financing of schools

LB 1001 requires the State Department of Education (NDE) to oversee an in-depth review of the financing of public elementary and secondary schools. The bill authorizes the department to obtain assistance from the Department of Revenue to acquire necessary data. A preliminary report is required on or before December 31, 2018 and the final report is to be completed on or before December 1, 2019.

LB 1033 (Murante) Eliminate learning communities

LB 1033 would dissolve the learning community and the learning community coordinating council. The bill would allow school districts that are currently part of the learning community to form joint entities with educational service units to operate elementary learning centers and early childhood education programs and services for children in poverty.

Learning communities currently may levy up to 1.5 cents per \$100 of valuation to pay for early childhood education programs and for elementary learning center employees and services. They also are authorized to levy up to half a cent for elementary learning center leases. LB1033 would transfer that taxing authority to the inter-local entities to pay for early childhood programs.

LB 1056 (Hansen) Provide for collection of data on student disciplinary actions

LB 1056 would create a statewide system for collecting data on school disciplinary measures and student interactions with law enforcement. The data collected under LB 1056 would contain the number of students who were suspended, expelled, referred to law enforcement and ticketed or arrested while attending a school-sponsored activity or event. Additionally, the board would collect data on the use of physical restraints in schools and whether a sworn law enforcement officer is assigned to the school.

School districts would be required to provide the board with individual student data that could be organized by race or ethnicity, gender, grade level and whether the student has a disability.

LB 1069 (Brasch) Change provisions related to the Committee on Americanism

LB 1069 would make several updates to the Americanism Committees required under current law by which, each school district's board is required to appoint three members to an Americanism committee that inspects and approves the textbooks used in the teaching of American history and government, to require a greater emphasis in civic education and to make changes as to the responsibilities for teaching history and social studies.

AM2382 introduced by Brasch would replace the bill. It would require each Americanism committee to hold at least three public meetings annually and to keep minutes from those meetings. The committee would ensure that the school's social studies curriculum is aligned with the standards adopted by the state Board of Education and "teaches and assesses foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy and geography."

The committee also would be required to ensure that the district develops and gives assessments to eighth- and 11th-graders to measure mastery of the social studies standards. The assessments would include, but not be limited to, the civics portion of the naturalization exam administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The scores for each student would be made available to the parents or guardians of the student. **[LB 1069 was not advanced by the Education Committee, but was placed on General File through a "Pull Motion."]**

LB 1094 (Hilgers) Provide for financial literacy and entrepreneurship academic content standards

LB 1094 requires the State Board of Education at a minimum to adopt model measurable academic content standards covering financial literacy and entrepreneurship for either the elementary, middle and high school grade ranges or a selected grade in each of the grade ranges. The standards shall be sufficiently clear and measurable to be used for testing student performance. The State Board shall review and update the standards every seven years.

LB 1116 (Linehan) Create the Quality Education Accountability Commission and the Quality Education Accountability Office

LB 1116 changes provisions of the Quality Education Accountability Act. The bill provides for a new eight member Quality Education Accountability Commission which is required to adopt, implement and maintain a reporting and accountability system. Currently, the State Board of Education (NDE) is charged with the responsibility for assessment, reporting and accountability under the act. The bill creates a Quality Education Accountability Office. The office is a state agency. The Governor is to appoint a Director of Quality Education Accountability who may employ staff that are necessary to carry out the act. Beginning in FY2019-20, the Commission is required to implement the statewide reporting and accountability system.

NDE will still be responsible for the state assessment system and tracking individual student achievement. The new commission is charged with using the data collected by NDE to classify individual public schools and districts based upon multiple indicators. The indicators selected by the commission shall be combined into school and district performance scores. The responsibility to designate up to three priority schools is shifted to the new commission from NDE. However, NDE retains the funds that are currently appropriated to provide technical assistance to the priority schools which will be identified by the commission.

LB 1125 (Groene) Change school finance base limitation and local effort rate provisions

LB 1125 amends the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) which allocates state aid to school districts. The bill changes the base limitation rate and local effort rate in the school aid formula for aid distributed in FY2018-19.

LB 1135 (Vargas) Adopt the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act

LB 1135 would require the state Board of Education to grant a Nebraska teaching certificate to any person in good standing who has a valid teaching certificate from another state. It also would require the board to grant a two-year teaching certificate to those who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, pass basic skills and subject area tests and enroll in an alternative teacher certification program approved by the board. The two-year certificate would not be renewable, and the holder would have to complete the alternative certification program to obtain a Nebraska teaching certificate.

LR 270CA (Kolowski) Constitutional amendment to reduce the minimum age in the constitutional requirement to provide free instruction

LR 270CA would reduce the age of free education in Nebraska from the currently required ages of five to twenty-one to the proposed ages of three to twenty-one. This would require public schools to accept three and four year-old children into early childhood programs.

LR 285CA (Murante) Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education

LR285CA is a proposed amendment to eliminate the Nebraska State Board of Education and would place the Commissioner of Education under the direction of the Governor of the State of Nebraska.

LR 291 (Kolowski) Recommend that school administrators, teachers, parents, and students be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks

LR 291 recommends that all school administrators, teachers, parents, and students be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks and take proactive measures to avoid injury. Schools should work to assess the extent to which students use overweight backpacks and take steps to lessen the need to carry all school materials and books back and forth each day.

**BILLS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED BY THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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REPORT ON THE PRIORITIZING
OF INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS
Pursuant to Rule 4, Section 3(c)

COMMITTEE: Education

DATE: 4/10/2018

The following resolutions were referred to the Committee on April 4, 2018. The committee has prioritized the resolutions in the following order:

Resolution No.	Subject
LR362	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee
LR452	Interim study to examine alternative teacher certification programs
LR403	Interim study to examine the enrollment option program
LR381	Interim study to examine the inclusion of financial literacy and entrepreneurship in the academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education as proposed in LB 1094, 2018
LR456	Interim study to examine the Student Discipline Act
LR393	Interim study to examine delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts in Nebraska schools and school districts
LR434	Interim study to examine school structure and finance
LR372	Interim study to examine school violence and identify steps that can be taken to preserve our schools as safe environments for learning and growth
LR438	Interim study to examine the benefits of the creation of an educational trust fund
LR439	Interim study to examine the ongoing implementation and impact of LB 276, 2014, which made Medicaid reimbursement available for a broader array of services delivered to Medicaid-eligible special education students
LR446	Interim study to examine existing best practices for anti-bullying policies and practices in K-12 education and the feasibility of adopting these standards
LR428	Interim study to examine the potential of micro-credentialing in Nebraska
LR357	Interim study to examine the current status of early childhood education

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 362

Introduced by Groene, 42.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Education Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 452

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Groene, 42.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study alternative teacher certification programs. The study shall include, at a minimum, an examination of the following:

(1) Alternative teacher certification programs and teaching license reciprocity currently available in Nebraska;

(2) Alternative teacher certification programs and teaching license reciprocity available in other states;

(3) Alternative teacher certification programs that may be available online;

(4) The statutory and regulatory environment around alternative teacher certification programs and teaching license reciprocity; and

(5) The role of the Legislature, State Board of Education, State Department of Education, and higher education institutions in ensuring the availability of accelerated teacher certification programs and teaching license reciprocity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 403

Introduced by Halloran, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the enrollment option program described in sections 79-232 to 79-246. The study shall include:

(1) An examination of the enrollment option program to ascertain whether the program is achieving the desired results for which it was created;

(2) An examination of the cost-effectiveness of the program;

(3) An examination of the effects on school districts, including whether some schools have been negatively impacted by the program to the benefit of other school districts; and

(4) Any recommendations to address the possible inequities to school districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 381

Introduced by Hilgers, 21.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine potential inclusion of financial literacy and entrepreneurship in the academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education as proposed in Legislative Bill 1094, which was heard by the Education Committee of the Legislature on February 6, 2018. Entrepreneurship and financial literacy are essential for a strong education and are pivotal elements for the growth of Nebraska. The ability to manage funds and financial resources is crucial for a lifetime of financial well-being, and the Legislature recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship in Nebraska for the cultivation of growth and innovation within the state.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of academic content standards related to:

(1) Using financial resources effectively;

(2) Managing debt, including student loans, mortgages, credit cards, and car loans;

(3) Managing personal finances, including, but not limited to: Investing personal assets, utilizing savings accounts, handling insurance, and filing taxes; and

(4) Employing entrepreneurship skills, including business planning, business operations, and business financing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council

LR381
2018

LR381
2018

or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 456

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the Student Discipline Act. The study shall include, at a minimum, an examination of the following:

- (1) The legislative and legal history of the Student Discipline Act;
- (2) How the Student Discipline Act is implemented by schools and school districts; and
- (3) Recommendations for updates to the Student Discipline Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 393

Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts in Nebraska schools and school districts. This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following issues:

(1) The practices and policies of schools and school districts regarding delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts;

(2) The effect of such practices and policies on students and families, including how delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts are demonstrated or communicated to students and families;

(3) The amount or quantity of debt carried by schools and school districts regarding delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts;

(4) The administrative costs associated with addressing delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts;

(5) The manner in which schools and school districts attempt to collect on delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts; and

(6) Any other related topics the study committee deems appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 434

Introduced by Linehan, 39.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study school structure and finance. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Research on public school structure in other states;
- (2) Research on how other states pay for K-12 education; and
- (3) Comparison of Nebraska's education benefit packages, including retirement benefits, and the education benefit packages of other states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 372

Introduced by Baker, 30; McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: Since the 1970s, school shootings have increased in communities across the nation. School shooters do not have a shared profile, nor a common reason for their attacks.

School violence is a whole community issue and must be addressed at all levels of government to ensure safe learning environments for elementary and secondary school students, teachers, administrators, and others.

In its February 2018 report, "Making Schools Safer," the U.S. Secret Service states, "There are many aspects to creating positive school climates and school safety. School administrators manage reports of all types of concerning behavior, ranging from vandalism to bullying, fights to drugs, suicidal behaviors and violence. With limited resources, schools must be creative in how they address these issues."

The purpose of this resolution is to examine school violence and identify steps that can be taken at the state level to support the efforts of local communities and school districts in preserving our schools as safe environments for learning and growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 438

Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the benefits of the creation of an educational trust fund. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The impact that an educational trust fund would have on limiting the fluctuation of funding through the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOA) formula;

(2) The best source of revenue to establish and maintain an educational trust fund;

(3) The effectiveness of management of an educational trust fund by the State Department of Education; and

(4) The effects an educational trust fund would have on school spending and reliance on property taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 439

Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the ongoing implementation and impact of LB 276 (2014). LB 276 made medicaid reimbursement available for a broader array of services delivered to medicaid-eligible special education students. The study committee shall explore options to create a distribution formula that allows schools to maximize federal medicaid reimbursements and seek reimbursement for additional services as allowed by federal law. By assessing the impacts to funding mechanisms and exploring innovative opportunities arising from the passage and implementation of LB 276, the study committee shall determine next steps for the Legislature for funding school-related health services through medicaid, thereby providing opportunities to improve overall student health and increase student engagement.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Reviewing impacts on school funding mechanisms, including the Medicaid in Public Schools program, state aid pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA), funds for the Nebraska Early Development Network, and the reallocation of special education appropriations;

(2) Examining how changes to the cost settlement process and repayments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services could affect TEEOSA funding;

(3) Examining equity considerations under the current TEEOSA formula, such as the impact of providing medically necessary services and any incentives that exist for school districts to provide and bill for such services;

(4) Determining the fiscal impact on the Nebraska Early Development Network and its funding given the new payment methodology; and

(5) Identifying the possible changes to the flow and allocation of funding from the Medicaid in Public Schools program in an effort to reduce barriers to

use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 446

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The Legislature has declared that bullying disrupts a school's ability to educate students and threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which such behavior can escalate into violence. The Legislature has previously defined bullying to mean any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The Legislature required each school district to adopt and annually review anti-bullying policies in 2009.

According to studies cited by the state Department of Education, fifteen to twenty-five percent of students in the United States are bullied with some frequency, fifteen to twenty percent report that they bully others with some frequency, and seventy-five percent of students reported that they had experienced some form of bullying during their school years. Bullying tends to peak in transition years, moving from elementary to middle school and middle to high school.

Recent unfortunate instances of bullying based on race, ethnicity, national origin and immigration status and toward LGBTQ students in Nebraska have underscored the need to ensure state policy and individual school district policy are meeting best practices and to ensure schools are proactively meeting their legal obligations to ensure students are not bullied or discriminated against.

The purpose of this resolution is to examine existing best practices for anti-bullying policies and practices in K-12 education and the feasibility of adopting these standards in Nebraska. The issues examined in this study shall

include, but not be limited to:

(1) An exploration of the current anti-bullying laws, policies, and practices in Nebraska schools;

(2) An exploration of existing best practices to prevent bullying, harassment, and discrimination in public schools; and

(3) An exploration of any other legal or policy issues related to ensuring Nebraska anti-bullying law and policies are meeting best practices for our schools and our students as appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 428

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the potential of micro-credentialing in Nebraska, including the potential impact on professional development, demonstrable student outcomes, and salary advancement. This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of what other states are doing to integrate micro-credentialing into professional development;

(2) A review of the latest research on micro-credentialing and its potential impact on student outcomes;

(3) An examination of how to ensure the development of rigorous, reputable micro-credentials;

(4) A review of potential barriers to utilizing micro-credentials;

(5) The potential for micro-credentials to impact salary advancement; and

(6) A review of the role of the State Department of Education in the development and utilization of micro-credentialing and the potential application in recertification.

Research has shown that teaching quality and school leadership are the most important factors in raising student achievement. For teachers and school and district leaders to be as effective as possible, they need to continually expand their knowledge and skills. Effective professional learning is personalized, self-directed, competency-based, job-embedded, practical, and focused on the skills educators need to address students' major learning challenges. Annually, \$2.6 billion in federal funding is spent on professional development for educators. In addition, school districts spend up to \$18,000 per educator on professional development. Yet only twenty-nine percent of teachers feel that they have the professional development that they need to

support student achievement.

More than a decade ago, Linda Darling-Hammond and her colleagues revealed that most professional learning experiences in the United States are not adequately preparing teachers to make changes in their classrooms (Darling-Hammond, Wei, Andree, Richardson, and Orphanos, 2009). Still, the traditional method of professional development has remained largely unchanged and often relies on short, one-size-fits-all workshops without ongoing and job-embedded aspects that support the impact in the classroom. Micro-credentials provide an opportunity for educators to engage in rigorous, self-paced, job-embedded professional learning that is connected to the daily skills teachers need in their classrooms. This new wave in professional learning provides a way for teachers to earn recognition for the skills they acquire through formal and informal learning opportunities, to personalize their professional learning to meet their needs, and to take what they learn and apply it to their classrooms.

Micro-credentials focus on evidence of skills and abilities, not seat time. Teachers select which micro-credential to pursue and identify the specific activities that will support them in developing the competency. Micro-credentials, available on demand, are responsive to teachers' schedules and are sharable as portable currency for professional learning that educators can take with them no matter where they go. A micro-credential is a certification indicating demonstrated competency in a specific skill. Micro-credentials are a natural extension of an educator's professional learning journey. Educators engage in both formal and informal professional learning activities but are rarely recognized for their informal learning. Micro-credentials recognize that informal learning.

Micro-credentials are:

(1) Competency-based: Micro-credentials allow educators to focus on a discrete skill related to their practice, such as checking for student understanding, and collect the evidence, such as classroom videos or student work, to demonstrate ability in that specific skill;

(2) On demand: Through an agile online platform that clearly identifies

each micro-credential's competency and required evidence, educators can start and continue the process of earning micro-credentials on their own time;

(3) Personalized: Because educators are able to select the micro-credentials they wish to earn, they can create their own professional learning journey aligned to their specific student needs and school-wide instructional goals; and

(4) Shareable: Once educators earn micro-credentials, they can display the digital badges to signal their demonstrated competence wherever their professional journey might take them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 357

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the current status of early childhood education in this state and potential methods and policies to ensure universal access to high-quality early childhood education. The primary focus of the study shall be on access to programs for children who are three or four years of age, but the study may also examine access issues for all young children, from birth onward.

The study committee shall work in conjunction with interested entities, including, but not limited to, school districts, the State Department of Education, any institute at the University of Nebraska formed for the purpose of promoting quality early childhood experiences, and any nonprofit groups interested in expanding access to high-quality early childhood education in this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.