

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB953

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 13, 2024
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Kauth
One Liner: Provide tuition waivers for student teachers as prescribed

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Conrad, Linehan, Meyer, Murman, Sanders, Walz, Wayne
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kathleen Kauth
Paul Turman
Kristen Hassebrook
Winona Mitchell
Deb Rasmussen
Todd Tripple
Colby Coash

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska State College System
University of Nebraska
Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA)
Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA)
Millard Public Schools
Nebraska Association of School Boards

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Bill Summary:

Starting from the 2025-26 school year through 2030-31, student teachers in Nebraska enrolled at the University of Nebraska or a Nebraska state college pursuing degrees related to teaching are eligible for a 100% waiver of resident tuition charges for the semester they engage in student teaching in a Nebraska elementary, middle, or high school.

To qualify, student teachers must maintain satisfactory academic performance.

For the specified period, the University of Nebraska or the Nebraska state college will waive 100% of the remaining tuition for the student teacher after accounting for federal financial aid grants and state scholarships and grants for the semester.

The institutions are required to submit an annual report to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education



detailing the number of individuals receiving these waivers, with no inclusion of personally identifiable student information.

The Legislature expresses its intent to appropriate up to three million dollars from the General Fund to implement this section.

Explanation of amendments:

Amendment Summary

AM 2445 changes LB 953 by adding stipends to the list of deductions to the student tuition waiver outlined in the bill, in addition to requiring the University of Nebraska or the Nebraska State College attended by the student utilizing the waiver to submit a report annually to the Clerk of the Legislature instead of to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and clarifying the intent of the legislature to appropriate funds for the waiver from fiscal year 2025-26 through fiscal year 2030-31.

From the 2025-26 to the 2030-31 school years, students at the University of Nebraska or Nebraska state colleges can receive a 100% tuition waiver for the semester they undertake student teaching in Nebraska K-12 schools. Eligibility requires enrollment in teaching-related programs, maintaining satisfactory academic performance, and active enrollment in classes. The waiver, effective until the 2031-32 school year, is subject to deductions for federal financial aid, state scholarships, and stipends received. The educational institutions must submit an annual report to the Legislature, detailing waiver recipients without revealing personal information. The Legislature plans to allocate up to three million dollars annually from the General Fund to support this initiative.

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1.1

Starting from the 2025-26 school year through the 2030-31 school year, students enrolled at the University of Nebraska or a Nebraska state college are eligible for a 100% waiver of

resident tuition charges for the semester they engage in student teaching at a Nebraska elementary, middle, or high school. To qualify, students must be pursuing a teaching-related degree, maintain satisfactory academic performance, and be actively enrolled in classes at the University of Nebraska or a Nebraska state college.

Section 1.2

Starting from the 2025-26 school year through the 2031-32 school year, the University of Nebraska or the Nebraska state college will provide a 100% tuition waiver for student teaching during the respective semester. This waiver applies after deducting any federal financial aid grants, state scholarships and grants, and stipends received by the student for student teaching during that semester. Additionally, the University of Nebraska or the Nebraska state college is required to submit an annual electronic report to the Clerk of the Legislature, detailing the number of students benefiting from these waivers and the total amount of each tuition waiver granted. The report must not include any personally identifiable information about the students.

Section 1.3

The Legislature intends to allocate an annual budget of up to three million dollars from the General Fund for the fiscal years 2025-26 through 2030-31 to implement the provisions outlined in this section.



Dave Murman, Chairperson



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