

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB958**

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**Chairperson: Senator Lavon Heidemann**

**Committee: Appropriations**

**Date of Hearing: February 07, 2012**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 958 would appropriate \$150,000 per year to the Nursing Faculty Student Loan Act, beginning with Fiscal Year 2012-13. LB 958 would also repeal an obsolete provision relating to a one-dollar fee on license renewals collected pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act.

The program provides student loan forgiveness for nurses in master's or doctorate programs who agree to become faculty members at an accredited public or private college nursing program. The maximum loan is \$5,000 per year with a maximum of \$15,000, and one year of loans are forgiven for every two years of service as a faculty member.

The impending retirement of many nurse faculty members will be a critical issue in our ability to provide qualified nurses to care for a rapidly aging population in Nebraska. We will need to replace retiring nurses and expand our nursing faculty populations if we hope to train additional Nebraskans for the nursing occupation, which is of paramount importance to the health care needs of our state.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Gwen Howard**