

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB178

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 26, 2013
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Kintner
One Liner: Change provisions relating to transportation reimbursement and state aid relative to learning communities

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Avery, Cook, Davis, Haar, Kolowski, Scheer, Seiler, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents: Senator Bill Kintner	Representing: Introducer
Opponents: Ted Stilwell John Knapp	Representing: Learning Community self
Neutral: Bob Twiss	Representing: self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 178 would modify student and parent transportation provisions for learning communities and poverty plan requirements regarding student transportation for all districts.

Section 79-611 would be amended by eliminating student transportation requirements specific to learning communities and member school districts. The provisions that would be eliminated currently require school districts in learning communities to provide free transportation when:

1. An open enrollment student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and lives more than 1 mile from the school;
2. An open enrollment student is a student who contributes to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment and lives more than 1 mile from the school;
3. A student is attending a focus school or program and lives more than 1 mile from the school; or
4. A student is attending a magnet school or program and lives more than 1 mile from the school.

Section 79-1007.11 would be amended by eliminating the new learning community transportation adjustment from the calculation of formula need pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act.

Section 79-1007.22 would be amended by basing the new learning community transportation adjustment on increases in cost due to transportation requirements that apply to all school districts. Currently, the adjustment is based only on increases in cost due to the current learning community transportation requirements that are being eliminated.

Section 79-1013 would be amended by eliminating the requirement for poverty plans to include transportation for students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches that reside more than 1 mile from the school. The poverty plan provisions addressing student mobility would be revised to require ways to allow a student to continue attendance at the same school, rather than transportation to allow the continued attendance.

Section 2110 would be amended by removing transportation from the purposes for which students who contribute to socioeconomic diversity are determined.

Section 79-2114 would be amended by removing transportation for truant students and transportation for participating families from the list of suggested activities for elementary learning centers.

Section 79-2115 would be amended to not allow learning community coordinating council funds to be used for transportation to school functions for parents of elementary students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches.

Section 79-2120 would be amended by removing transportation requirements from the purposes for which the Department of Education certifies the average percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches in each school building to learning community member districts.

The act would become operative on July 1, 2013 with the emergency clause included in the measure.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson