

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB506

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 12, 2013
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: Change elementary class size allowance in the state aid formula

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 Kate Bolz
Larry Scherer

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska State Education Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Jeremy Murphy

Representing:

Nebraska Catholic Conference

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 506 would add reporting requirements for fall personnel reports and would extend and expand the elementary class size allowance.

Section 79-804 would be amended by adding requirements to the fall personnel report filed by public private, denominational, and parochial schools. For all individuals employed by the school who are required to hold a certificate, the proposal would require the reporting of the salaries, years of experience, benefits, certificate level, postsecondary education degree level, hours of postsecondary education, and highest degree level attained. For instructional paraprofessionals, the reporting of salary, benefits, years of experience, and educational level would also be required.

Section 79-1007.04 would be amended by extending the elementary class size allowance through the 2015-16 school fiscal year and expand the qualifications. The allowance is currently scheduled to sunset following the 2012-13 school fiscal year. The allowance currently equals the statewide average general fund operating expenditures per formula student multiplied by 20% of the number of students in the school district in kindergarten through grade three who spend at least 50% of the school day in one or more classrooms with a minimum of 10 students and a maximum of 20 students. For school fiscal years 2013-14 through 2015-16, the measure would expand the allowance to also include students who spend at least 50% of the school day in one or more classrooms with an appropriately certified teacher and instructional paraprofessional with a minimum of 21 students and a maximum of 28 students. To meet the expanded criteria, the paraprofessionals would need to meet current federal requirements. The current qualifications would also be modified by requiring the classrooms to have an appropriately certified teacher.

The act would become operative on July 1, 2013 pursuant to a stated operative date combined with an emergency

clause.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson