

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 491**

Introduced by Cook, 13.

Read first time January 23, 2013

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act; to amend  
2 sections 85-1903, 85-1909, and 85-1912, Revised Statutes  
3 Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to redefine terms; to change  
4 provisions relating to calculation of target level of  
5 funds; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the  
6 original sections.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 85-1903, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3           85-1903 Award means a grant of money by the commission to  
4 an eligible student for educational expenses. Awards shall not  
5 exceed: ~~(1) For each award year except award years 2008-09 and~~  
6 ~~2009-10, fifty seventy-five percent of the tuition and mandatory fees~~  
7 ~~for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for the last~~  
8 ~~completed award year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.; and~~

9           ~~(2) For award years 2008-09 and 2009-10, twenty five~~  
10 ~~percent of the tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident,~~  
11 ~~undergraduate student for the last completed award year at the~~  
12 ~~University of Nebraska Lincoln.~~

13           Sec. 2. Section 85-1909, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
14 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

15           85-1909 Tuition and mandatory fees means: ~~the lesser of~~  
16 ~~the student costs for tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time,~~  
17 ~~resident, undergraduate student for the last completed award year at~~  
18 ~~the eligible postsecondary educational institution or the student~~  
19 ~~costs for tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident,~~  
20 ~~undergraduate student for the last completed award year at the~~  
21 ~~University of Nebraska Lincoln.~~

22           (1) For students attending a public postsecondary  
23 educational institution, the lesser of student costs for tuition and  
24 mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for  
25 the last completed award year at the eligible postsecondary

1 educational institution or the student costs for tuition and  
2 mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for  
3 the last completed award year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln;  
4 or

5 (2) For students attending a nonpublic postsecondary  
6 educational institution, the lesser of student costs for tuition and  
7 mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for  
8 the last completed award year at the eligible postsecondary  
9 educational institution or the student federal Pell Grant cost of  
10 attendance for dependent students, not to exceed the student costs  
11 for tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident,  
12 undergraduate student for the last completed award year at the  
13 University of Nebraska-Lincoln plus the amount of the lowest average  
14 taxpayer subsidy for an undergraduate student at a four-year public  
15 college or university in Nebraska, as calculated annually by the  
16 commission based on the last completed fiscal year.

17 Sec. 3. Section 85-1912, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
18 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

19 85-1912 (1) In order to reduce the costs of administering  
20 the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act, the commission shall identify a  
21 target level of funds to be distributed to students pursuant to the  
22 act at each eligible postsecondary educational institution. The  
23 target level of funds shall represent the maximum amount that may be  
24 awarded pursuant to the act to eligible students enrolled in such  
25 eligible postsecondary educational institution. To determine the

1 target level of funds for each eligible postsecondary educational  
2 institution, the commission shall+ combine the amounts calculated  
3 pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

4 (2) The commission shall first:

5 ~~(1)~~ (a) Determine the number of eligible full-time-  
6 equivalent students enrolled at the eligible postsecondary  
7 educational institution for the last completed award year;

8 ~~(2)~~ (b) Multiply the number determined in subdivision ~~(1)~~  
9 (2)(a) of this section by the tuition and mandatory fees as limited  
10 pursuant to section 85-1909;

11 ~~(3)~~ (c) Divide the product derived pursuant to  
12 subdivision ~~(2)~~ (b) of this section for each eligible postsecondary  
13 educational institution by the sum of the products derived pursuant  
14 to subdivision ~~(2)~~ (b) of this section for all eligible postsecondary  
15 educational institutions; and

16 ~~(4)~~ (d) Multiply three-fourths of the total of federal  
17 and state funds appropriated for purposes of distribution pursuant to  
18 the act by the ratio derived pursuant to subdivision ~~(3)~~ (c) of this  
19 section.

20 (3) After making the calculation required pursuant to  
21 subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall then:

22 (a) Determine the number of students who earned a first  
23 (i) doctoral degree, (ii) master's degree, (iii) baccalaureate  
24 degree, (iv) associate degree, (v) certificate, or (vi) diploma at  
25 the eligible postsecondary educational institution for the last

1 completed award year for which data is available from the Integrated  
2 Postsecondary Education Data System;

3 (b) Multiply (i) the number determined pursuant to  
4 subdivision (a)(i) of this subsection by a factor of 1.5; (ii) the  
5 number determined pursuant to subdivision (a)(ii) of this subsection  
6 by a factor of 1.25; (iii) the number determined pursuant to  
7 subdivision (a)(iii) of this subsection by a factor of 1.0; (iv) the  
8 number determined pursuant to subdivision (a)(iv) of this subsection  
9 by a factor of 0.5; and (v) the sum of the numbers in subdivisions  
10 (a)(v) and (a)(vi) of this subsection by a factor of 0.25;

11 (c) Divide the sum of the products derived pursuant to  
12 subdivisions (b)(i) through (b)(v) of this subsection for each  
13 eligible postsecondary educational institution by the sum of the  
14 products derived pursuant to subdivisions (b)(i) through (b)(v) of  
15 this subsection for all eligible postsecondary educational  
16 institutions; and

17 (d) Multiply one-fourth of the total federal and state  
18 funds appropriated for purposes of distribution pursuant to the  
19 Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act by the ratio derived pursuant to  
20 subdivision (c) of this subsection.

21 Sec. 4. Original sections 85-1903, 85-1909, and 85-1912,  
22 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, are repealed.