

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB465

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: March 04, 2013

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

LB 465 would create the College Choice Grant Program, and is aimed at providing additional financial aid to Nebraska resident students who attend Nebraska privately-controlled non-profit colleges and universities.

The students at Nebraska independent colleges and universities were not served well with the elimination of three financial aid programs and the passage of the Nebraska Scholarship Program in 2003. More than 33,000 students attend Nebraska independent colleges and those institutions award more than 41 percent of the baccalaureate and advanced degrees in Nebraska. However, those students receive about 0.3 of one percent of the funds allocated for colleges and universities in Nebraska. Funds for those students diminished from almost \$4 million in the 2001-02 fiscal year to around \$3 million in the current fiscal year. Other sectors, most notably the University of Nebraska and the for-profit colleges, have seen their allocations increase considerably.

LB 413 would create a program for the state to use to increase financial aid to students at independent colleges. It is critically important to the state's interest that independent colleges and universities continue to educate many of our state's best and brightest students, and that those students who have financial need have the resources to attend the college of their choice. The bill would become operative on July 1, 2013.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Scott Lautenbaugh