

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB645

Chairperson: Senator Mike Gloor

Committee: Revenue

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2015

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

LB 645 would create the Early Childhood Workforce Development Opportunity Act and establish a nonrefundable tax credit for contributions by both individuals and businesses to qualified nonprofit organizations nationally licensed to provide early childhood education and retention incentive grants as certified by the Nebraska Department of Education in accordance with this Act.

The purpose of the grants is to increase the compensation, education and retention of early childhood professionals who are employed by early childhood care and education programs participating in Step Up to Quality that serve a minimum annual average of 30 percent of the total enrolled child population through the child care subsidy program. Grants must be provided in an equitable statewide manner. The amount of the grants would be relative to the level of education of the eligible recipients.

The qualified granting organizations would be required to use no less than 95 percent of their revenue for the purpose of the nationally licensed early childhood education and retention incentive grant program. The qualified granting organization shall submit an annual audited financial information report certified by an independent public accountant to the State Department of Education and provide statistical annual reports outlining the impact and outcomes of the grants.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Jeremy Nordquist