

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 575

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to provide for legislative
- 2 findings; to define terms; to provide funding for schools
- 3 implementing and offering programs as prescribed; and to state
- 4 intent related to funding.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) In order for Nebraska's students to adequately prepare for
3 postsecondary education and careers, public schools in conjunction with
4 educational service units in Nebraska should offer programs of
5 excellence;

6 (2) The startup costs of implementing and the ongoing costs of
7 offering such programs, including, but not limited to, curricula,
8 textbooks, testing fees, technology, equipment, staffing, staff training,
9 and other related expenses, can often exceed the resources available to a
10 school district or an educational service unit; and

11 (3) It is in the best interests of the state to provide a dedicated
12 source of funding to public schools in Nebraska through educational
13 service units for such programs.

14 Sec. 2. For purposes of sections 1 to 7 of this act, program of
15 excellence means a nationally recognized program offered in the high
16 school grades that includes a curriculum and pedagogy, professional
17 development for teachers, and a rigorous assessment external to the
18 school system.

19 Sec. 3. (1) Educational service units shall apply on behalf of
20 member school districts to the State Department of Education for
21 reimbursement calculated pursuant to section 4 of this act. School
22 districts seeking reimbursement pursuant to such section shall provide
23 documentation to the appropriate educational service unit of the number
24 of students in each program of excellence for which reimbursement is
25 requested and the number of students successfully completing such program
26 of excellence.

27 (2) Reimbursement shall be available based on students who
28 successfully complete a program of excellence. Applications shall be
29 submitted based on completions during the immediately preceding fiscal
30 year not later than August 1, 2018, and on or before August 1 of each
31 year thereafter. The department shall award the reimbursements provided

1 for in this section and distribute such reimbursements after September 1
2 and no later than October 1 of every year beginning in 2018.

3 Sec. 4. (1) For each student who successfully completes a program
4 of excellence, the department shall approve and reimburse the school
5 district through its educational service unit as provided in this section
6 if the school district through its educational service unit has applied
7 pursuant to section 3 of this act.

8 (2) The reimbursement for each qualifying school district shall be
9 determined by (a) dividing the statewide aggregate number of approved
10 students completing programs of excellence into the total funds
11 appropriated for such purpose and (b) multiplying the result by the
12 number of such approved students for such district.

13 (3) For purposes of the general fund budget of expenditures as
14 defined in section 79-1003, funds received pursuant to this section shall
15 be considered special grant funds.

16 Sec. 5. On or before January 1, 2019, and on or before each January
17 1 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall report to the
18 Legislature, with respect to the reimbursements distributed in the most
19 recent distribution period, the number of students in each qualifying
20 district for which reimbursement was made, the total reimbursement to
21 each qualifying district, and the total reimbursement for all qualifying
22 districts. The report shall be filed electronically.

23 Sec. 6. The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate
24 rules and regulations to carry out sections 1 to 5 of this act. Such
25 rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, mechanisms to
26 determine successful student completion of a program of excellence for
27 purposes of reimbursement authorized by section 4 of this act.

28 Sec. 7. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate from the
29 General Fund two million dollars for each fiscal year beginning with
30 fiscal year 2018-19 through fiscal year 2020-21 to carry out the purposes
31 of section 4 of this act.