

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1101**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 23, 2024  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Hardin  
**One Liner:** Provide requirements for the Public Health Early Admission Student Track Program and the Rural Health Opportunities Program and provide for tuition waivers

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Conrad, Linehan, Meyer, Murman, Sanders, Walz, Wayne  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**  
Senator Brian Hardin  
Paul Turman  
Douglas Kristensen

**Representing:**  
Opening Presenter  
Nebraska State Colleges  
University of Nebraska-Kearney

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Bill Summary:

LB 1101 would support the Public Health Early Admission Student Track Program (P.H.E.A.S.T) and the Rural Health Opportunities Program by appropriation of General Funds equal to or more than one-half of the cost of tuition waivers granted by these programs.

Section-by-Section Summary:

**SECTION 1**

Section 1 defines the Public Health Early Admission Student Track Program as a program encouraging students to pursue public health careers in rural communities.

The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska are required to enter into a memorandum of understanding outlining the program's administration, eligibility criteria, student application and selection process, and participation requirements, including a visit to the University of



Nebraska Medical Center campus, completion of specified coursework and exams, and additional admission and experience requirements.

Participating students are entitled to a 100% waiver of tuition and fees for up to 72 undergraduate credit hours at a state college in Nebraska to fulfill public health coursework for early admission to the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health.

State colleges are mandated to grant tuition waivers for qualifying students, and the Legislature intends to appropriate funds to cover at least half the cost of these tuition waivers using General Funds.

## SECTION 2

Section 2 defines the Rural Health Opportunities Program as a program encouraging students from rural communities to pursue health care professions and return to practice in those communities.

The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska are required to enter into a memorandum of understanding outlining program administration, including a joint application and interview process for student selection.

Eligible students, determined by residency and high school attendance, are entitled to a 100% waiver of tuition and fees at a state college for up to four years to complete required health care program coursework for early admission to an eligible health care program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

State colleges must grant tuition waivers for qualifying students, and the Legislature intends to appropriate funds, equal to or more than one-half of the cost of tuition waivers, using General Funds for this purpose.

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### **Explanation of amendments:**

Amendment Summary:

The "Rural Health Opportunities Program," aims to encourage students from rural communities to pursue health care professions and subsequently return to practice in those rural areas.

The Boards of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and the University of Nebraska Regents will collaborate through a memorandum of understanding to administer the program.

This includes joint application and interview processes for selecting students provisionally admitted to eligible health care programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Eligible students must have attended or graduated from an approved Nebraska high school and have residency in a rural area of Nebraska.

Participants in the program receive a full waiver of tuition and fees for up to four years at a state college or the University of Nebraska at Kearney, facilitating completion of required health care coursework for early admission and transfer to the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The Legislature intends to allocate sufficient funds annually for the implementation of this program.

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Dave Murman, Chairperson

