

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB 495

HEARING DATE: 2/2/99

COMMITTEE ON: Education

TITLE: (Stuhr, Baker, Bohlke, Brashear, Bromm, Connealy, Coordsen, Dierks, Engel, Hartnett, Hudkins, Jones, Kremer, Matzke, D. Pederson, C. Peterson, Price, Raikes, Robak, Schellpeper, Schimek, Schmitt, Schrock, Suttle, Thompson, Vrtiska, Wickersham) Adopt the Education and Career Preparation Act

ROLL CALL VOTE – FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senators Stuhr, Brashear, Coordsen, Suttle, Price, Bohlke
2	No	Senators Raikes, Wickersham
0	Present, not voting	
0	Absent	

PROPOSERS

Senator Elaine Stuhr
Seth Derner
Bev Peterson

Duane Obermier
Rachel Wise
Connie Eichhorn
Randy Mueller
Virginia Fay
Lisa Schaneman
Anne Irvine
Kermit Bosshamer
Dean Poppe
Andy Schuerman

Written:

Jack Trindle

REPRESENTING

Introducer
Self, Elgin Vocational Education Teacher
NE Board of Education Legislative Committee
Self
Nebraska State Education Committee
Omaha Public Schools
Omaha Public Schools
Self, Grand Island
Self
Nebraska FFA
Self
Eaton Corporation
Dutton/Lainson
Self
Airlite Plastics

OPPOSERS

REPRESENTING

NEUTRAL

REPRESENTING

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SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

Legislative Bill 495 creates the Education and Career Preparation Act. Receipts from this act are included in the special education allowance and as accountable receipts for state aid purposes.

Legislative findings state that technology is changing the educational and training needs of employees, which is raising employer expectation for employees from all educational levels. In addition to math, science, and communication skills, employees will need employability and technological skills for employment and lifelong learning. The findings further state a need for quality career preparation programs in order to:

1. Allow students to leave high school with employment skills;
2. Balance work, family, and community;
3. Encourage skills needed to develop and operate small businesses; and
4. Prepare students with the necessary qualifications to obtain advanced degrees.

The purpose of the act is to focus on academic, technical, and employment skills through programs such as agriculture, business, career guidance and counseling, family and consumer sciences, industrial technology, marketing, health occupations, and diversified occupations. The programs are designed to help students:

1. Recognize the range of occupations requiring special skills;
2. Acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in specific occupations or clusters of related occupations;
3. Acquire the skills to balance work, family, and community;
4. Gain employment experience; and
5. Acquire the knowledge and skills for entry into a career preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution.

Beginning with 1999-2000 school year, the Legislature shall appropriate funds for distribution by the State Board of Vocational Education, which is the same as the State Board of Education. The funds will be distributed to local systems annually on or before October 15 to be used to carry out the act. An intent is stated to appropriate \$6 million dollars for the first year and to grow the appropriation by the percentage growth in participating students plus the basic allowable growth rate for school districts, which is currently 2.5%.

Each local system shall receive .05% of the appropriation as base funds for each approved career preparation program. Each local system shall also receive a pro rata share of the remainder based on the number of students enrolled in approved career preparation programs during the previous school fiscal year.

The board may distribute up to 5% of the appropriation for statewide leadership and support services to keep programs and teachers current in the requirements and trends of business and industry. Leadership and support services include, but are not limited to: Career guidance and counseling; curriculum development and dissemination; integration

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of academic and career preparation curriculum frameworks; professional development activities; articulation with postsecondary education; education of prospective teachers, administrators, and staff; student leadership activities; cooperative education work-based learning; research and development for meeting new and emerging occupations; and establishing and utilizing local advisory committees for business and education partnerships. Any funds not used for these purposes shall be reallocated for distribution to the local systems in the following school fiscal year.

To receive funds, each local system shall complete an application identifying the programs to be supported. Allowable services and activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Program improvement activities such as:
 - a. Acquisition of equipment similar to that found in business and industry;
 - b. Professional development of instructional staff;
 - c. Improvement of career guidance and counseling;
 - d. Development or adaptation of curricular materials to strengthen math, science, critical thinking, and communication skills as they relate to vocational skills;
 - e. Implementation of applied academic courses; and
 - f. Collaboration with employers to strengthen vocational development course contents and techniques;
2. Career preparation program operation and maintenance;
3. Developing articulation activities with postsecondary education; and
4. Developing activities and programs for the inclusion of special populations.

Each local system shall comply with these requirements and any requirements of the department to continue eligibility.

The department shall be responsible for evaluation, data gathering, assessment, and accountability system design, including follow up on students beyond graduation at 1, 3, and 5 year intervals.

Within 30 days after the effective date of this act, the board shall appoint and convene an advisory committee to provide recommendations relating to the administration of the act. The membership shall consist of the Commissioner of Education or a designee; 1 representative each from business, industry, and labor; the program manager for vocational education; 1 school administrator and 2 teachers involved in vocational education programs; the executive director of the Nebraska Community College Association; and 1 vocational education teacher educator.

The board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of the act and establish monitoring procedures for determining the results of the act.

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Section 79-1003 is amended to including receipts from this act in the special education allowance. Section 79-1018.01 is amended to include receipts from this act as accountable receipts in formula resources.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

The committee amendments reduce the intended appropriation from \$6 million to \$4 million.

Senator Ardyce Bohlke, Chair
Committee on Education