

AMENDMENTS TO LB 313

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 "Sec. 3. The School Structure Task Force is created.
3 The task force shall consist of the members appointed pursuant to
4 section 4 of this act. The task force shall report its Phase I
5 recommendations to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Education
6 Committee of the Legislature on or before December 1, 2001, and its
7 Phase II findings and recommendations on or before December 1,
8 2002.

9 Sec. 4. Except as provided in subdivision (12) of this
10 section, members of the School Structure Task Force shall be
11 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council on or
12 before July 1, 2001, and shall include:

13 (1) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the
14 Legislature;

15 (2) Two additional members of the Education Committee,
16 one of whom shall represent Class III, IV, and V school districts
17 and one of whom shall represent Class I, II, and VI school
18 districts;

19 (3) Two members of the Legislature who are not members of
20 the Education Committee, one of whom shall represent Class III, IV,
21 and V school districts and one of whom shall represent Class I, II,
22 and VI school districts;

23 (4) One representative of a teachers' organization;

24 (5) One representative of an association of school

1 boards;

2 (6) One representative of an association of school
3 administrators;

4 (7) A superintendent from a school district with fewer
5 than four hundred students in the standard cost grouping
6 established under section 79-1007.02;

7 (8) A superintendent from a school district with nine
8 hundred or more students in the standard cost grouping established
9 under such section;

10 (9) One representative of the business community who has
11 a background in management;

12 (10) One representative from a community organization
13 aimed at assisting schools in meeting the national education goals
14 established under the federal Goals 2000: Educate America Act, 20
15 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.;

16 (11) One representative of a Nebraska tax policy research
17 organization;

18 (12) One representative from the State Department of
19 Education, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education;

20 (13) A superintendent from a school district with between
21 four hundred and nine hundred students in the standard cost
22 grouping established under section 79-1007.02; and

23 (14) A retired superintendent experienced in school
24 consolidation, merger, or unification.

25 Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their
26 actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to
27 81-1177.

1 Sec. 5. The School Structure Task Force shall conduct a
2 two-phase study of the school systems in the standard cost grouping
3 established under section 79-1007.02. Phase I of the study shall
4 determine and gather the information needed to assess the number
5 and configuration of school districts in the standard cost grouping
6 which most efficiently and most fairly maximize the educational
7 benefits to all the students of such districts considering current
8 resources available to such districts as a whole. Phase I shall
9 also identify the fiscal resources necessary to analyze such
10 material and to make any detailed plan required by Phase II of this
11 study. Phase II of the study shall determine whether reduction or
12 reconfiguration of existing school districts in the standard cost
13 grouping is advisable and, if so, shall recommend to the
14 Legislature a detailed plan to reduce or reconfigure the number of
15 school districts in the standard cost grouping to the number that
16 will best maximize the educational benefits to the students of such
17 districts considering the current resources available to districts
18 as a whole. The detailed plan shall identify for the Legislature
19 all specific districts to be merged, unified, or otherwise altered
20 and the general structure of the resulting districts and shall
21 recite the specific facts considered and assumptions made in making
22 each of the recommendations. The detailed plan should assume
23 completion of the process by May 1, 2006, although exceptions may
24 be made for good cause shown. Every school district shall provide
25 to the task force all information requested by the task force in a
26 timely fashion.

27 Sec. 6. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall

AM0113
LB 313
MHF-01-25

AM0113
LB 313
MHF-01-25

1 hold at least one public hearing in each congressional district in
2 Nebraska on the final recommendations of the task force and such
3 other public hearings as it deems sufficient.

4 Sec. 7. The School Structure Task Force terminates upon
5 presentation of its final report as provided in section 5 of this
6 act.

7 Sec. 8. The School Structure Task Force may hire
8 necessary staff to complete the study.

9 Sec. 9. It is the intent of the Legislature to
10 appropriate one hundred fifty thousand dollars for FY2001-02 and
11 one hundred fifty thousand dollars for FY2002-03 to carry out
12 sections 3 to 8 of this act and to appropriate in FY2002-03 such
13 additional funds as may be required to complete Phase II of the
14 study.".

15 2. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.