



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Committee Statement
LB 683

Hearing Date: March 3, 2003
Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes)
Title: Change provisions relating to nonpublic colleges and career schools

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File
Advanced to General File with Amendments
X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Schrock, Maxwell, Stuhr, Bourne, Raikes,, Byars, McDonald
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Brashear

Proponents:

Senator Ron Raikes
Larry J. Scherer

Marshall Borchert

Mike Abdouch

Scott Broady
Ron Withem
Jim Haga
Todd Clark

Marge Harouff
Harold Briley

Opponents:

Neutral:

Thomas O'Neill

Representing:

Introducer
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Nebraska Council of Private Postsecondary Career Schools
Vatterott College
University of Nebraska
Kaplan Hicotter Education
Vatterott College
Nebraska Council of Private Postsecondary Career Schools
Department of Education
Department of Education

Representing:

Representing:

Association of Independent Colleges and

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 683 would require private colleges and private postsecondary career schools to petition the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for approval before extending their program offerings to the baccalaureate or higher degree level. Private postsecondary career schools would petition through the Department of Education to the Commission.

Section 85-1105 would be amended by requiring private colleges and private postsecondary career schools to petition the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for approval before extending their program offerings to the baccalaureate or higher degree level. This process is currently required to establish a new private college, but not for private colleges that offer four-year undergraduate programs to extend their offerings to include graduate or professional programs.

Section 85-1108 would be amended by clarifying that for the requirement to seek appropriate accreditation, appropriate accreditation may only be granted by an entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. New private colleges petitioning to offer degrees at the baccalaureate or higher degree level would be required to seek accreditation by an accrediting agency which has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education with the scope to accredit institutions offering programs at those degree levels.

Section 85-1108 would also be amended to clarify that the fees authorized in that section are for the review and authorization of petitions and applications made pursuant to sections 85-1105 to 85-1111. The rule making authority in that section would be extended to include section 85-1111.

Section 85-1412 would be amended by replacing the Commissions authority to make recommendations to the State board of Education regarding private postsecondary career schools with authorization to approve new baccalaureate degree programs to be offered at private postsecondary career schools. The Commission would be required to report the approval to the Commissioner of Education and would be allowed to collect reasonable fees for administrative costs. A requirement to report on objectives and activities to the Governor and Legislature every 2 years would be eliminated

Section 85-1604 would be amended by clarifying that the schools that are exempt from the Private Postsecondary Career School Act include not-for-profit private colleges, universities, and entities which award baccalaureate or higher degrees and for-profit private colleges, universities, and entities which award post-baccalaureate degrees. Therefore, for-profit private colleges, universities, and entities which award baccalaureate degrees and not post-baccalaureate degrees would be subject to the Private Postsecondary Career School Act.

Section 85-1620 would be amended by adding a new subsection allowing private postsecondary career schools to apply to the Department of Education for authority to award baccalaureate degrees. The Department would be required to refer the application to the Coordinating

Commission for Postsecondary Education for review and approval. The Commission would make a determination setting forth the program area and name of the degree program. The Commissioner of Education would then issue a certificate setting forth the programs for which baccalaureate degrees may be awarded. The authorization would continue as long as the school remained accredited.

Section 85-1621 would be amended to recognize that private postsecondary career schools would be able to offer baccalaureate degrees.

Section 85-1643 would be amended by setting the fee for the initial authorization for a private postsecondary career school to offer a baccalaureate degree at \$200.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson