

AMENDMENTS TO LB 988

Introduced by Kopplin, 3.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 Sec. 50. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares  
3 that a high-quality system of public education is essential to the  
4 prosperity and well-being of the state and necessary to maintaining  
5 a high quality of life for all Nebraskans.

6 (2) The Legislature further finds and declares that the  
7 ideal system for funding public schools:

8 (a) Is fair, understandable, predictable, and stable;

9 (b) Assures equity in educational opportunities across  
10 the state;

11 (c) Provides sufficient support and resources for all  
12 school districts to meet state accreditation standards; and

13 (d) As much as possible, reduces or limits the reliance  
14 on property tax funding.

15 Sec. 51. (1) The School Funding Study Task Force is  
16 created. The task force shall study the current school finance  
17 formula to determine if it is meeting the goals set forth in  
18 section 50 of this act. If the task force determines that such  
19 goals are not being met, the task force shall propose changes,  
20 improvements, or alternatives to the current method of funding the  
21 public schools that meet the goals set forth in section 50 of this  
22 act.

23 (2) The task force shall include the following members:

1           (a) The chairpersons of the Committee on Education,  
2 Committee on Revenue, and Committee on Appropriations of the  
3 Legislature;

4           (b) Five members of the Legislature, appointed by the  
5 Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

6           (c) The Governor or his or her representative;

7           (d) Five representatives of kindergarten through  
8 twelfth-grade education, including school board members, teachers,  
9 administrators, parents, and students, appointed by the Governor;

10          (e) One member from each of the following organizations,  
11 appointed by that organization:

12           (i) The Nebraska Association of School Boards;

13           (ii) The Nebraska State Education Association; and

14           (iii) The Nebraska Council of School Administrators;

15          (f) The Commissioner of Education or his or her  
16 representative; and

17          (g) Three representatives of business and industry,  
18 appointed by the Governor.

19          (3) The appointed members of the task force shall be  
20 appointed within thirty days after the effective date of this  
21 act, and the task force shall hold its organizational meeting on  
22 or before July 1, 2008. Members of the task force shall receive  
23 no compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and  
24 necessary expenses as members of the task force as provided in  
25 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

26          Sec. 52. The School Funding Study Task Force shall hold  
27 public meetings in each of the congressional districts in Nebraska,

1 as such districts exist on the effective date of this act, and seek  
2 public input through all appropriate means. A preliminary report  
3 shall be made public and provided to the Legislature by January 1,  
4 2009, and a final report shall be made public and provided to the  
5 Legislature by October 1, 2009. The report shall include a plan  
6 to accomplish the goals described in section 50 of this act, with  
7 appropriate implementation strategies.

8           Sec. 53. The Legislature and the State Department of  
9 Education shall provide staff, logistical, and technical support  
10 for the task force.

11           2. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.