

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -  
2008**

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

**LB1151**

---

**Hearing Date:** February 25, 2008

**Committee On:** Education

**Introducer(s):** (Raikes)

**Title:** Change provisions relating to distance education and telecommunications

---

**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Placed on General File with Amendments

---

**Vote Results:**

7 Yes                      Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Burling, Howard,  
Kopplin, Raikes

0 No

1 Absent                  Senator Johnson

0 Present, not voting

---

**Proponents:**

Senator Ron Raikes  
Shirley Schall

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Southwest Distance Education Network

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

---

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

Legislative Bill 1151 would provide a budget exception for increases in telecommunications costs in either the first year that a district will be participating in Network Nebraska or in 2008-09 if the district participated in 2007-08. The measure would also clarify the distance education equipment reimbursement and incentive provisions.

Section 79-1028 would be amended by allowing a budget exception for school districts in either the first school fiscal year the district will be participating in Network Nebraska for the full year or 2008-09 if the school district participated in Network Nebraska for 2007-08. The exception would equal the estimated expenditures for telecommunications services, access to data transmission networks that transmit data to and from the school district, and the transmission of data on such networks minus the amount of such expenditures for the school fiscal year prior to participation in Network Nebraska. The department would approve, deny, or modify the estimated expenditures.

Section 79-1336 would be amended by clarifying that requirement for school districts receiving distance education equipment reimbursements to send or receive distance education courses for four years is for four “consecutive” years.

Section 79-1337 would be amended by clarifying the certification of distance education incentives is for payments to be made in the same year as the certification.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendments would allow the budget exception for the first two years that a district will be participating in Network Nebraska. The exception for districts that participated in 2007-08 would continue to be limited to 2008-09. Pursuant to current provisions, the Network Nebraska expenditures for such districts would be included in the distance education and telecommunications allowance for 2009-10, two years after the initial expenditures.

The amendments would also allow distance education equipment reimbursements for equipment purchased either by, or on behalf of, school districts or educational service units. If the purchase was made on behalf of a school district or educational service unit, evidence would be required that the purchase was made on their behalf and that the school district or educational service unit paid directly or indirectly for the purchase.

---

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson