

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1096

Introduced by Haar, 21; Cook, 13; Mello, 5.

Read first time January 21, 2010

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to adopt the Nebraska High
- 2 Performance Schools Initiative Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known as
2 the Nebraska High Performance Schools Initiative Act.

3 Sec. 2. High performance schools provide the following
4 benefits of:

5 (1) Improving student performance;

6 (2) Improving the health and well-being of students and
7 staff;

8 (3) Saving tax dollars;

9 (4) Reducing negative environmental impacts of energy
10 generation and consumption;

11 (5) Generating positive economic activity; and

12 (6) Creating jobs.

13 Sec. 3. The Legislature finds that in order to address
14 the upfront costs of high performance schools, it is necessary
15 to authorize school districts to implement a financing procedure
16 to pay for these improvements through the savings realized by
17 increased efficiency.

18 Sec. 4. For purposes of the Nebraska High Performance
19 Schools Initiative Act, high performance school contract means a
20 contract for building improvements which will reduce energy and
21 other operational costs.

22 Sec. 5. Each school district seeking to qualify for
23 financing under the Nebraska High Performance Schools Initiative
24 Act shall conduct an assessment of the buildings the district
25 intends to have participate in a high performance school contract

1 pursuant to the act. Such assessment shall include, but not be
2 limited to, the following:

3 (1) An audit of energy usage and methods for reducing
4 energy consumption;

5 (2) An audit of air quality in the facility and methods
6 for increasing fresh-air flow;

7 (3) An audit of lighting in the facility and methods
8 of improving lighting in educational spaces, including the use of
9 natural light;

10 (4) An audit of water use and recommendations for
11 reducing water use;

12 (5) An audit of use of other resources and
13 recommendations for making more efficient use of resources;
14 and

15 (6) Whether the recommended changes fulfill the
16 requirements for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
17 Green Building Rating System, developed by the United States Green
18 Building Council that provides standards and certification for
19 environmentally sustainable construction.

20 Sec. 6. A school district may enter into an energy
21 financing contract under sections 66-1065 and 66-1066.

22 Sec. 7. School districts shall be eligible for grants
23 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and for grants or loans from
24 funds allocated to the Nebraska Energy Office for energy efficiency
25 loans from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of

1 2009 in order to carry out assessment and evaluation procedures
2 pursuant to the Nebraska High Performance Schools Initiative Act.
3 First priority for funding shall be given to projects intended to
4 seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

5 Sec. 8. (1) Each school district which enters into a
6 contract under the Nebraska High Performance Schools Initiative Act
7 shall document the energy and operational savings realized on an
8 annual basis.

9 (2) No school district shall lose state aid to education
10 as a result of reduced energy or operational costs or because of
11 any contract entered into pursuant to the Nebraska High Performance
12 Schools Initiative Act.