

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB870

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 17, 2012
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Adams
One Liner: Provide for an accountability system to measure school performance under the Quality Education Accountability Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Adams, Avery, Cornett, Council, Haar, Howard, Seiler, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Greg Adams
Mark Quandahl
Roger Breed
Bob Evnen
Ted Stilwill
John Bonaiuto
Mike Dulaney
Jay Sears
Jon Habben
Andy Rikli
Chad Dumas

Representing:

Introducer
State Board of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
State Board of Education
Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nebraska State Education Association
Nebraska Rural Community School Association
Westside Community Schools
Hastings Public Schools

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 870 would require the State Board of Education, on or before August 1, 2012, to establish an accountability system to be used to measure the performance of individual public schools and school districts beginning with the 2012-13 school year. The accountability system would be required to combine multiple measures, including, but not limited to, graduation rates, student growth and student improvement on statewide assessments, and other indicators of the performance of public schools and school districts as established by the board. The measures selected by the State Board for the accountability system could be combined into a school performance score and district performance score. The board would be required to establish levels of performance for the indicators used in the accountability system in order to classify the performance of public schools and school districts. The State Department of Education would be required to annually report the performance of individual public schools and school districts as part of the statewide assessment and reporting system.

The bill would also provide for the outright repeal of sections 79-760 and 79.760.04. Section 79-760 provides for an assessment and reporting system for school years prior to the 2009-10 school year. Section 79-760.04 requires educational service units with member school districts that are part of a learning community to develop and implement a joint plan to establish standards and provide for assessment of students in kindergarten through third grade within such learning community.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment would amend language in section 2 of LB 870 to specify that the Department would be required to annually report the level of performance of individual public schools and school districts on the indicators used in the accountability system as part of the statewide accountability and reporting system. The current language simply requires the Department to report the performance of individual public schools and school districts as part of the statewide accountability and reporting system.

The amendment would amend section 79-760.05 to add the indicators used in the accountability system to the measures of student achievement for which individual student data are required to be collected pursuant to the section. The section would also be amended to add public schools to the list of entities for which the Department is required to annually analyze and report on student achievement aggregated by demographic characteristics.

The amendment would also amend section 79-828 to extend to all classes of school districts the requirement that probationary certificated employees be evaluated at least once each semester. The amendment would also add the word certificated to references to probationary employees. Both of these changes were proposed in Legislative Bill 809, which was indefinitely postponed by the Education Committee. The amendment would also amend section 79-828 to clarify language pertaining to information and assistance provided by evaluators.

The amendment would also add a new section to the bill to allow school districts, with approval of the State Department of Education, to establish career academies. The section would state the purpose and duties of career academies, provide a list of entities with which school districts may partner in the operation of career academies, and require the Department to establish standards and criteria related to various issues pertaining to the operation of career academies. The establishment of career academies was originally proposed in Legislative Bill 1144.

Greg Adams, Chairperson