

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB372**

---

**Chairperson: Senator Greg Adams**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: February 07, 2011**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 372 would amend role and mission statutes that pertain to authority of the University of Nebraska and community colleges to offer associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Section 85-943 currently limits the University's authority to offer associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates to specified fields, subject to approval by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The section would be amended to enable the University to offer certificates in additional fields upon approval from the Coordinating Commission if the preponderance of the courses comprising any such certificate are above the associate-degree level. The bill would also replace existing use of the term "certificates-in-course" with the term "certificates."

The bill would also amend section 85-961 to modify the level of courses that comprise associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates awarded by community colleges, in accordance with the changes proposed to section 85-943. Community colleges are currently authorized to award associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates in less than baccalaureate degree program areas. The bill would limit the award of associate degrees, diplomas and certificates by community colleges to those comprised of courses at the associate-degree level or below.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Greg Adams**