

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

## **LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 579**

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Bolz, 29; Cook, 13; Kolowski, 31; Lathrop, 12; Mello, 5; Seiler, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the Nebraska need-based financial aid program (Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act) that was created by the Legislature by the passage of LB574 in 2003, and whether that program is sufficient to meet the needs of students in all sectors of Nebraska higher education. The study shall provide an examination of the following:

(1) The differences in allocations of state funds to students attending particular sectors of higher education institutions in the state, compared to the allocations to students before 2003, and whether those changes were intended and are appropriate in light of changing state policies;

(2) The scope of student aid currently available from all sources, including direct and indirect state assistance, federal assistance from financial aid programs, institutional assistance, private sector assistance, aid to nonresident students at public sector institutions, and a comparison with efforts in other states relating to student aid, particularly in those states in the Big Ten and Big East athletic conferences;

(3) Whether Nebraska's investment in higher education has resulted in an appropriately educated workforce in Nebraska;

(4) The college graduate migration patterns to and from Nebraska;

(5) The ability to maintain successful institutions and educational programs in Nebraska, both public and private, in the event that financial resources become more scarce in the future; and

(6) Any other issues relating to higher education and higher education financial aid programs in Nebraska, including with respect to the use of lottery funds in funding programs like the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act for which the funding terminates on June 30, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Appropriations Committee and Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.