

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB109

Hearing Date: Monday January 26, 2015
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Crawford
One Liner: Change residency requirements for veterans attending a public college or university

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Baker, Cook, Groene, Kolowski, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Schnoor, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Sue Crawford
Stan Carpenter
Michelle Waite
Dennis Baack

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska State College System
University of Nebraska
Nebraska Community College Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 109 amends 85-502.01 to provide that veteran who was released from active service within 90 days and enrolls within 3 years in a public college or university in Nebraska shall be considered a resident for tuition purposes. A spouse or dependent of a veteran who qualifies under this act shall also be considered a resident for tuition purposes at eligible postsecondary educational facilities in this state.

LB 109 also amends 85-502.01 by striking subsection (3), which section disqualified an otherwise eligible veteran under this act for benefits if that veteran qualified for benefits under 38 U.S.C. 3317(Veterans Benefits/Public-private contributions for additional educational assistance)

Explanation of amendments:

AM66 amends section 1 of LB 109 in the following manner:

Lines 5-9 change the timeframe for eligibility for veterans, spouses and dependents from two years to three years for the purpose of in-state tuition benefits.

Lines 10-12 indicate that an eligible recipient of federal educational assistance as provided under 38 U.S.C. 3311(b) and 38 U.S.C. 3319, also qualifies for in-state tuition. This change is a new federal requirement.

Lines 18-22 inserts language to clarify that an individual who may be eligible for federal benefits under 38 U.S.C. 3679 (c) (as that section existed on January 1, 2015) and the in-state tuition as provided under this act, may be exempt from having to register to vote under this subsection as they may not be eligible to vote based on age.

Lines 23-26 remove the requirement that our public colleges and universities check for eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon program because those veterans now should qualify for in-state tuition. Therefore, the Yellow Ribbon program should not be necessary for these students. Removing this section allows the colleges and universities to streamline the application process for veteran students.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson