Introduced by Schilz, 47; Nordquist, 7; Watermeier, 1.

Read first time January 21, 2015

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to amend sections 84-612 and 85-1401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund; to state findings and intent; to create a fund; to provide powers and duties for the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Section 84-612, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

84-612 (1) There is hereby created within the state treasury a fund known as the Cash Reserve Fund which shall be under the direction of the State Treasurer. The fund shall only be used pursuant to this section.

(2) The State Treasurer shall transfer funds from the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund upon certification by the Director of Administrative Services that the current cash balance in the General Fund is inadequate to meet current obligations. Such certification shall include the dollar amount to be transferred. Any transfers made pursuant to this subsection shall be reversed upon notification by the Director of Administrative Services that sufficient funds are available.

(3) In addition to receiving transfers from other funds, the Cash Reserve Fund shall receive federal funds received by the State of Nebraska for undesignated general government purposes, federal revenue sharing, or general fiscal relief of the state.

(4) On July 7, 2009, the State Treasurer shall transfer five million dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Roads Operations Cash Fund. The Department of Roads shall use such funds to provide the required state match for federal funding made available to the state through congressional earmarks.

(5) The State Treasurer shall transfer a total of sixty-eight million dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund on or before June 30, 2013, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(6) The State Treasurer shall transfer ten million dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund on or before June 30, 2013, on such date as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(7) The State Treasurer, at the direction of the budget
administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services, shall transfer not to exceed forty-three million fifteen thousand four hundred fifty-nine dollars in total from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2017.

(8) The State Treasurer shall transfer fourteen million five hundred thousand dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund on or before June 30, 2015, on such date as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(9) The State Treasurer shall transfer fifty million five hundred thousand dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund on or before December 31, 2014, on such date as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(10) The State Treasurer shall transfer sixteen million two hundred ninety thousand dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Dental Clinic and Educational Facility Grant Fund on or before July 1, 2016, on such date as directed by the budget administrator of the Department of Administrative Services.

Sec. 2. Section 85-1401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

85-1401 Sections 85-1401 to 85-1420 and section 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act.

Sec. 3. (1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) The availability and accessibility of quality, affordable oral health care for all residents of the State of Nebraska is a matter of public concern and represents a compelling need affecting the general welfare of all residents;

(b) The development and sustainability of a skilled workforce in the
practice of dentistry is a public health priority for the State of Nebraska; and

(c) According to research sponsored by the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission, and the Health Professions Tracking Service of the College of Public Health of the University of Nebraska Medical Center:

(i) A majority of the ninety-three counties of the State of Nebraska are general dentistry shortage areas as designated by the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission and more than twenty percent of the ninety-three counties have no dentist;

(ii) Eighty-two counties are shortage areas in pediatric dentistry as designated by the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory Commission;

(iii) The uneven distribution of dentists in the State of Nebraska is a public health concern and twenty-four percent of the dentists in Nebraska are estimated to be planning to retire by 2017;

(iv) Sixty percent of the children in the State of Nebraska experience dental disease by the time they are in the third grade; and

(v) It is estimated that more than twenty-five thousand children attending public schools in Omaha, Nebraska, do not have a means of continuing dental care.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide for the development of a skilled and diverse workforce in the practice of dentistry and oral health in order to provide for the oral health of all residents of the State of Nebraska, to assist in dispersing the workforce to address the disparities of the at-risk populations in the State of Nebraska, and to focus efforts in areas and demographic groups in which access to a skilled workforce in the practice of dentistry is most needed. In order to accomplish these goals, the Legislature recognizes that it is necessary to assist and support established professional dental educational institutions committed to addressing these critical
oral health care needs of the residents of the State of Nebraska.

(3) The Dental Clinic and Oral Health Training Facility Grant Fund is created. The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education shall administer the fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(4) The fund shall be used to provide a one-time grant for the construction of a dental clinic and oral health training facility to serve the public health needs of the residents of the State of Nebraska. To be eligible for a one-time grant from the fund, an applicant shall submit a plan to the commission to construct a dental clinic and oral health training facility, to provide discounted and charitable dentistry care at the facility, to target the unmet oral health care needs of residents of the State of Nebraska, to focus on lower-income and at-risk populations within the State of Nebraska, and to educate at least one hundred dental students annually. In addition, the applicant shall submit at least five letters of intent with school districts or federally qualified health centers as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B), as such act and section existed on January 1, 2010; in at least five different counties throughout the State of Nebraska to provide charitable or discounted oral health care. The plan shall include the source and amount of matching funds from all other sources, including private sources, on a four-to-one ratio with the grant from the Dental Clinic and Oral Health Training Facility Grant Fund. The grant funds shall be used with the matching funds to construct the dental clinic and oral health training facility.

Sec. 4. Original sections 84-612 and 85-1401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.