

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2018
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB803

Hearing Date: Monday January 22, 2018
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Stinner
One Liner: Change provisions related to kindergarten, early childhood education, and the Step Up to Quality Childcare Act

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Ebke, Groene, Erdman, Kolowski, Linehan, Pansing Brooks, Walz
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Morfeld

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator John Stinner
Matt Blomstedt
Jeff West

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Education
ESU 13

Opponents:

Susan Sarver
Maddie Fennell

Representing:

Buffett Early Childhood Institute
Nebraska State Education Association

Neutral:

Ben Baumfalk

Representing:

First Five Nebraska

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 803 would make the following changes to the Nebraska Revised Statutes:

-Clarifies the use of phrases used throughout statutes related to prekindergarten services, prekindergarten programs, and early childhood education programs.

-Eliminates redundant wording in sections 71-1952 thru 71-1964, which sections are known as the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act.

-Amends 79-728 (Kindergarten programs; required.) to provide that school districts offer "full-day" kindergarten programs beginning with the 2019-20 school year, equal to the same instructional hours as all other elementary grades.

-Amends 79-1104 (Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services; transportation services; school board; powers and duties.) to strike the explicit requirement that all teachers and administrators in prekindergarten programs be certificated and replaces it with granting the Nebraska Department of Education rule and regulatory authority over staff

qualifications for these programs. The changes under this section could provide flexibility to the State Board, to address issues related to qualified workforce shortages, reported across the state.

Explanation of amendments:

1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new section:

2. Section 1, would amend section 79-1104(Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services; transportation services; school board; powers and duties.), to provide that the State Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations that exempt a prekindergarten program from the requirement that teachers and administrators hold a valid certificate or permit if such program is in compliance with such rules and regulations. This change is intended to provide NDE with flexibility in providing certification to Prekindergarten programs.

Mike Groene, Chairperson