

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 515

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Business and Labor

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend sections 85-1539 and
2 85-1540, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to create the
3 Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program; to state
4 findings; to define terms; to authorize grants; to require policy
5 recommendations; to require reporting; to state intent to provide an
6 appropriation; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
7 sections.
- 8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that in order to be competitive in
2 a global economy, Nebraska must develop educational programs in high-
3 demand fields. The Legislature further finds that business interests in
4 Nebraska have identified development of a skilled workforce as essential
5 to building Nebraska's economy. Additionally, the federal Workforce
6 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, 29 U.S.C. 3101, as such act
7 existed on January 1, 2017, included the first requirement for states to
8 provide integrated education and training services. Finally, community
9 colleges in Nebraska are positioned to establish innovative approaches to
10 developing credentials with meaning in the workforce that meet
11 educational demand.

12 Sec. 2. For purposes of sections 1 to 5 of this act:

13 (1) Adult education means academic instruction and education
14 services below the postsecondary level for any person who is sixteen
15 years of age or older, who is not enrolled in high school and is not
16 required to be enrolled in school, that increase the ability to read,
17 write, and speak in English and perform mathematics or other activities
18 necessary for the attainment of a high school diploma or a diploma of
19 high school equivalency, for the transition to postsecondary education
20 and training, and to obtain employment;

21 (2) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
22 Education;

23 (3) Committee means the Nebraska Community College Student
24 Performance and Occupational Education Grant Committee;

25 (4) Integrated education and training means instruction that
26 provides adult education and literacy activities or remedial education
27 concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and
28 workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for
29 the purpose of educational and career advancement; and

30 (5) Remedial education means instruction and support to prepare a
31 student who is assessed by the postsecondary educational institution that

1 the student has chosen as being academically underprepared to
2 successfully complete a program of study at such postsecondary
3 educational institution.

4 Sec. 3. (1) The Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant
5 Program is established. The grant program shall provide grants to
6 community colleges for the purpose of developing and implementing local
7 programs of integrated education and training. The committee shall
8 administer the program and shall develop grant applications, procedures,
9 and guidelines as needed.

10 (2) The committee shall allocate grants of up to three years to
11 community colleges through a competitive process. To be eligible, a
12 community college shall submit an application to the committee
13 describing:

14 (a) The specific integrated education and training instructional
15 model to be implemented by the local program of integrated education and
16 training;

17 (b) How the local program of integrated education and training will
18 be designed and implemented by educators with expertise in adult
19 education and occupational skills training;

20 (c) How the local program of integrated education and training will
21 prepare students to receive a high school diploma or diploma of high
22 school equivalency if necessary;

23 (d) How the local program of integrated education and training will
24 prepare students to obtain postsecondary credentials;

25 (e) If applicable, how the local program of integrated education and
26 training will offer industry-recognized credentials;

27 (f) The occupations or industry for which the local program of
28 integrated education and training will prepare students for employment
29 and how the program will fit into a career pathway;

30 (g) Evidence of employer demand for completers of the local program
31 of integrated education and training;

1 (h) How the local program of integrated education and training will
2 provide student support services, including guidance counseling, to
3 assist with student success;

4 (i) Strategies for tracking and reporting outcomes and evaluation
5 reporting for the local program of integrated education and training;

6 (j) Evidence of matching funds from local or philanthropic sources
7 of at least one quarter of the total projected cost for the local program
8 of integrated education and training;

9 (k) Description of target population, such as unemployed,
10 underemployed, low-income, youth, dislocated workers, other, or a
11 combination of target populations and how the local program of integrated
12 education and training will serve such target population; and

13 (l) Other information as required by the committee.

14 Sec. 4. The commission shall develop an annual evaluation of the
15 Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program that includes
16 the following:

17 (1) The local programs of integrated education and training that
18 each community college offers by name;

19 (2) The number of students who enrolled in each local program of
20 integrated education and training;

21 (3) The number of students who successfully complete each local
22 program of integrated education and training; and

23 (4) The percentage of students who obtained employment in the
24 occupation or industry indicated in the grant application or who enrolled
25 for additional education related to such occupation or industry within
26 six months after successful completion for each local program of
27 integrated education and training.

28 Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds to
29 carry out the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program
30 from the General Fund. Up to fifteen percent of such funds may be
31 retained by the commission for administering grants, providing technical

1 assistance, and conducting the annual evaluation required pursuant to
2 section 4 of this act.

3 Sec. 6. Section 85-1539, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 85-1539 (1) There is hereby created the Nebraska Community College
6 Student Performance and Occupational Education Grant Committee. The
7 committee shall consist of (a) a representative of the Coordinating
8 Commission for Postsecondary Education who shall serve as chairperson of
9 the committee, (b) a representative of the Department of Economic
10 Development, (c) a representative of the Department of Labor, (d) a
11 representative of the State Department of Education, (e) a representative
12 affiliated with one of the two community college areas with the two
13 smallest full-time equivalent student enrollment totals for the most
14 recent fiscal year, (f) a representative affiliated with one of the two
15 community college areas with the two largest full-time equivalent student
16 enrollment totals for the most recent fiscal year, and (g) a
17 representative affiliated with one of the two community college areas not
18 included in the categories provided in subdivisions (1)(e) and (f) of
19 this section. Each member shall be appointed by the agency or community
20 college areas being represented. The representatives appointed pursuant
21 to subdivisions (1)(e) through (g) of this section shall serve terms of
22 two years and shall be succeeded by a representative affiliated with the
23 community college areas not represented for the preceding term. The
24 committee shall administer the grant program provided by subsection (2)
25 of this section and the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant
26 Program pursuant to sections 1 to 5 of this act.

27 (2) The committee shall develop guidelines for and annually
28 determine the allocation of aid or grants to the community colleges for
29 (a) applied technology and occupational faculty training, instructional
30 equipment upgrades, employee assessment, preemployment training,
31 employment training, and dislocated worker programs benefiting the State

1 of Nebraska or (b) programs or activities to enhance (i) student
2 performance in the areas of degree, certificate, or diploma completion,
3 retention, or foundations education as defined in section 85-932.01 or
4 (ii) the collection, reporting, analysis, and utilization of student
5 data. The total amount allocated for a fiscal year shall not exceed the
6 amounts appropriated from the Nebraska Community College Student
7 Performance and Occupational Education Grant Fund and such other funds as
8 may be appropriated by the Legislature for purposes of this section for
9 such fiscal year. The commission shall certify the allocation determined
10 by the committee on or before September 10 of the fiscal year for which
11 such allocation is being certified and shall report such allocation to
12 the Department of Administrative Services. The commission shall
13 distribute the allocated funds to the selected community college board or
14 boards in a single payment between the fifth and twentieth day of October
15 of each year.

16 (3) Applications for aid or grants pursuant to subsection (2) of
17 this section may be submitted by a community college area independently
18 or in collaboration with other community college areas.

19 Sec. 7. Section 85-1540, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 85-1540 There is hereby created the Nebraska Community College
22 Student Performance and Occupational Education Grant Fund. The fund shall
23 be under the direction of the Nebraska Community College Student
24 Performance and Occupational Education Grant Committee and shall be
25 administered by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.
26 The fund shall consist of money received by the state in the form of
27 grants or gifts from nonfederal sources, such other amounts as may be
28 transferred or otherwise accrue to the fund, and any investment income
29 earned on the fund. The fund shall be used to provide aid or grants to
30 the community colleges pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of section
31 85-1539. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested

1 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
2 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

3 Sec. 8. Original sections 85-1539 and 85-1540, Reissue Revised
4 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.