

E AND R AMENDMENTS TO LB 1089

Introduced by Slama, 1, Chairman Enrollment and Review

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
2 insert the following new sections:

3 Section 1. Section 79-729, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 79-729 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance of assuring
6 that all persons who graduate from Nebraska high schools possess certain
7 minimum levels of knowledge, skills, and understanding.

8 (2) Beginning in school year 1987-88, each high school student shall
9 complete a minimum of two hundred high school credit hours prior to
10 graduation. At least eighty percent of such credit hours shall be core
11 curriculum courses prescribed by the State Board of Education.

12 (3)(a) Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, each public high
13 school student shall complete and submit to the United States Department
14 of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to
15 graduating from such high school except as otherwise provided in this
16 subsection.

17 (b) A public high school student shall not be required to comply
18 with subdivision (3)(a) of this section if:

19 (i) A parent or legal guardian of or a person standing in loco
20 parentis to such student signs and submits the appropriate form
21 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subdivision (3)
22 (c) of this section indicating that such parent, legal guardian, or
23 person standing in loco parentis authorizes such student to decline to
24 complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

25 (ii) The school principal or the school principal's designee signs
26 and submits the appropriate form prescribed by the Commissioner of
27 Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this section authorizing such

1 student to decline to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal
2 Student Aid for good cause as determined by the school principal or the
3 school principal's designee; or

4 (iii) A student who is nineteen years of age or older or is an
5 emancipated minor signs and submits the appropriate form prescribed by
6 the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this
7 section stating that such student declines to complete and submit a Free
8 Application for Federal Student Aid.

9 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall prescribe the forms to be
10 used by each public high school for purposes of subdivision (3)(b) of
11 this section. Such forms shall be made available:

12 (i) By each public high school to students, parents and legal
13 guardians of students, and persons standing in loco parentis to students;
14 and

15 (ii) In English, Spanish, and any other language spoken by a
16 majority of the students enrolled in any English learner program at such
17 public high school.

18 (d) The school principal or the school principal's designee of each
19 public high school shall provide such compliance information to the
20 school district or governing authority for such public high school and to
21 the State Department of Education without disclosing, for any student who
22 has complied with the requirements of this subsection, personally
23 identifiable information distinguishing whether such compliance was
24 pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this section or subdivision (3)(b) of
25 this section. Such school principal or school principal's designee shall
26 provide separately the aggregate number of students who have not complied
27 with this subsection, who complied pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this
28 section, and who complied pursuant to subdivision (3)(b) of this section,
29 unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law regarding the
30 confidentiality of student educational information.

31 (e) On or before December 31, 2022, and on or before December 31 of

1 each year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall electronically
2 submit a report with the information received by the State Department of
3 Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(d) of this section to the Clerk of
4 the Legislature.

5 (4) The State Board of Education may establish recommended statewide
6 graduation guidelines. This section does not prohibit the governing board
7 of any high school from prescribing specific graduation guidelines as
8 long as such guidelines do not conflict with this section.

9 (5) This section does not apply to high school students whose
10 individualized education plans prescribe a different course of
11 instruction. This section does not prohibit the governing board of any
12 high school from prescribing specific graduation guidelines as long as
13 such guidelines do not conflict with this section.

14 (6) For purposes of this section, high school means grades nine
15 through twelve and credit hour shall be defined by appropriate rules and
16 regulations of the State Board of Education but shall not be less than
17 the amount of credit given for successful completion of a course which
18 meets at least one period per week for at least one semester.

19 (7) The State Department of Education shall adopt and promulgate
20 rules and regulations as necessary to implement this section. Such rules
21 and regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

22 (a) A timeline for the distribution of the Free Application for
23 Federal Student Aid and the forms prescribed pursuant to subdivision (3)
24 (c) of this section by public high schools and for the submission of the
25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the forms prescribed
26 pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this section by students;

27 (b) Standards regarding the information that a public high school
28 must provide to students regarding:

29 (i) Instructions for filling out the Free Application for Federal
30 Student Aid;

31 (ii) The options available to a student under subdivision (3)(b) of

1 this section if a student wishes to decline to complete and submit a Free
2 Application for Federal Student Aid; and

3 (iii) The method by which a student shall provide proof to the
4 public high school that such student has completed and submitted the Free
5 Application for Federal Student Aid or a form prescribed pursuant to
6 subdivision (3)(c) of this section; and

7 (c) A requirement for each public high school to report the number
8 of students who completed and submitted a Free Application for Federal
9 Student Aid and the number of students who instead submitted a form
10 prescribed pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this section.

11 Sec. 2. Original section 79-729, Reissue Revised Statutes of
12 Nebraska, is repealed.

13 2. On page 1, line 2, after "a" insert "high school"; and in line 3
14 strike "for waivers" and insert "an exception as prescribed; to provide a
15 duty for schools to submit data to the State Department of Education; to
16 provide duties for the Commissioner of Education and require an annual
17 report to the Legislature; to provide for rules and regulations".