

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1153**

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Hansen, M., 26; Linehan, 39.

Read first time January 22, 2020

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend section 79-730, Reissue
- 2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require approval of alternative
- 3 tests for a diploma of high school equivalency; to allow development
- 4 of skill-based or competency-based assessments for a diploma of high
- 5 school equivalency; to make testing available across the state; to
- 6 provide duties for the Commissioner of Education; and to repeal the
- 7 original section.
- 8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-730, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 79-730 (1) The Commissioner of Education may issue a diploma of  
4 high school equivalency conveying all the significance and privilege of a  
5 regular high school diploma to any person who is not a high school  
6 graduate if:

7 (a) (1) The person is and has been a resident of Nebraska for at  
8 least thirty days immediately preceding application or if his or her  
9 final period of high school attendance during which credit was earned  
10 toward graduation was in a Nebraska high school;

11 (b) (2) On the basis of such person's achievements in approved tests  
12 and other criteria deemed pertinent by the Commissioner of Education,  
13 there is reasonable certainty that he or she has attained the educational  
14 development and abilities of the typical high school graduate; and

15 (c) (3) Such person has attained his or her eighteenth birthday and  
16 is unable to secure a diploma from the high school he or she last  
17 attended or the class in which he or she was enrolled at the time of his  
18 or her withdrawal from school has been graduated for at least one year.

19 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall approve at least two  
20 alternative tests for a person seeking a diploma of high school  
21 equivalency to choose from to demonstrate that such person has attained  
22 the educational development and abilities of the typical high school  
23 graduate. The commissioner shall also make testing using each of such  
24 approved tests available at locations across the state.

25 (3) The State Board of Education may develop and make available one  
26 or more skill-based or competency-based assessments for a person seeking  
27 a diploma of high school equivalency to choose from in addition to the  
28 tests approved by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (2) of this  
29 section to demonstrate that such person has attained the educational  
30 development and abilities of the typical high school graduate.

31 Sec. 2. Original section 79-730, Reissue Revised Statutes of

1 Nebraska, is repealed.