

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB675

Chairperson: Senator Mike Groene

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 26, 2019

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 675 increases the maximum length of time a school board can contract with providers of utility services, refuse disposal, transportation services, maintenance services, financial services, insurance, security services, and instructional materials, supplies, and equipment. Currently, contracts with such providers cannot exceed a period of four years. LB 675 amends this to seven years.

Current law provides for a certain amount of actual transportation expenses for children with disabilities to be reimbursed by the Department of Education. To receive reimbursement, an application must be made to the department annually and any amendments to the application must be submitted during the school year in which the original application was made. LB 675 amends this so that the amendment to the application does not need to be in the same school year as the application.

This bill updates the duties of the Educational Technology Center.

The definition of a “child with a disability,” found in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1117, is amended to clarify the maximum age a child is still subject to the provisions of the Special Education Act. Redefining “child with a disability” in this manner allows for simplification of several statutes in the Special Education Act. The statute stating to whom the Special Education Act applies, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1126, is amended to reflect this new definition of “child with a disability.” Consequently, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1126 is also changed to be consistent with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1117 so that the Special Education Act applies from the date of verification instead of the date of diagnosis or the date the school district was notified.

LB 675 also makes many non-substantive changes to statutes within Chapter 79. One change defines “department” as the “state department of education” for the purposes of the Special Education Act, which permits language throughout the Special Education Act to be simplified.

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-1007.04, 79-1007.17, 79-1007.23, 79-1007.25, 79-1008.02, and 79-1028.03 are obsolete and are outright repealed.

LB 675 also removes obsolete language from various Chapter 79 and education-related statutes.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene