

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB887**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday February 14, 2022  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Slama  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to state colleges and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and eliminate certain provisions relating to morals and prohibiting religious tests

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Julie Slama  
Paul Turman

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska State College System

**Opponents:**

Vincent Litwinowicz

**Representing:**

The Higher Power Church

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Section 1:

Allows members of the Board of Trustees of State Colleges (Board) to be reimbursed for actual expenses related to the performance of their duties.

Section 2:

Assigns the responsibility of the Board Secretary the keeping of "an exact and detailed account of activities of the board." This responsibility is currently included in Neb. Rev. Stat. 85-303, along with a reporting of such activity to the Governor, which is outright repealed in Section 13.

Section 3:

Changes language in the duties of the Board as follows:

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- Changes the appointment of presidents to each "state college" versus "state school"
- Changes language referring to the "Deferred Building Renewal Act" from statutory sections to the name of the act
- Removes language from the bill requiring the Board to consult with the Nebraska Arts Council on statutory sections regarding the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, thus outside its jurisdiction

Section 4:

Removes language from the bill requiring the Board to inform the Direction of Administrative Services that statutory sections regarding the University of Nebraska Board of Regents have been complied with for projects under its supervision.

Section 5:

Changes the frequency of Board meetings from "each year a regular meeting at or near the close of each semester" to "regular meetings".

Section 6:

Updates language in statute related the president of each school management responsibilities to refer to "all faculty and other employees of each state college" from "all teachers and other subordinates in each state college".

Section 7:

Updates language related to the collection of fees, board and room to remove "matriculation fees" and change "school" to "state college". Matriculation fees are eliminated in the outright repeal of Neb. Rev. Stat. 85-311 in Section 13.

Section 8:

Updates the phrase "persons, both male and female" to "persons" from the language stating the instructional purpose of the state colleges. Also removes the cross reference to three sections of statute that do not relate to the instructional purpose of state colleges (one is exclusively related to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, one is exclusively related to the community college system, and one is related the three systems authority to purchase retirement annuity contracts).

Section 9:

Removes the phrase "on the recommendation of the faculty of the respective colleges" from the Board's authority to confer bachelor degrees.

Section 10:

Changes the authority for approving state colleges' master's programs from the Legislature to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE).

Section 11:

Changes the statutory authority of Peru State College to offer master's degree programs in disciplines other than education and organization management to other areas subject to approval by the Board "upon demonstration of a compelling need in disciplines in which it has demonstrated capacity as authorized and approved by" CCPE.

Section 12:

Repeals original sections of statute updated by this bill.

Section 13:

Outright repeals the following four sections of statute: Neb. Rev. Stat. 85-303, 85-311, 85-312 and 85-954.

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Lynne Walz, Chairperson