

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 902

FINAL READING

Introduced by Aguilar, 35; Flood, 19; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Linehan, 39; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Wishart, 27; Briese, 41; Walz, 15.

Read first time January 07, 2022

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to adopt the
- 2 Nebraska Career Scholarship Act; to state legislative intent
- 3 relating to appropriations; and to provide operative dates.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act:

4 (1) Community college means a public postsecondary educational
5 institution which is part of the community college system and includes
6 all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of
7 Nebraska;

8 (2) First-time freshman means a student who enrolled in an eligible
9 program of study as the student's first enrollment in any postsecondary
10 institution after graduating from high school or receiving a diploma of
11 high school equivalency;

12 (3) Nebraska Career Scholarship means a scholarship awarded under
13 the act or a scholarship awarded as a Nebraska Career Scholarship
14 pursuant to Laws 2021, LB380, or Laws 2020, LB1008;

15 (4) Nonscholarship student means a student who has never been
16 awarded a Nebraska Career Scholarship for the applicable eligible program
17 of study;

18 (5) Private college means an accredited private nonprofit
19 institution of postsecondary education located within the State of
20 Nebraska;

21 (6) Scholarship recipient means a student who has been awarded a
22 Nebraska Career Scholarship; and

23 (7) Standard college admission test means the national assessment
24 instrument that is also used as the standard college admission test
25 selected by the State Board of Education and administered to students in
26 the eleventh grade pursuant to subsection (9) of section 79-760.03.

27 Sec. 3. (1)(a) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges
28 shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship that does not exceed a maximum
29 of fifteen thousand dollars per year to any eligible state college
30 student who achieved a composite score on a standard college admission
31 test equivalent to a score of at least eighteen out of a maximum score of

1 thirty-six and who is enrolled in an eligible program of study.

2 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall
3 allocate funds appropriated to the board under the Nebraska Career
4 Scholarship Act between the state college campuses, determine the
5 eligibility of students enrolled in a state college, receive and process
6 applications for awards to individual students, and disperse funds
7 directly to scholarship recipients during the fiscal year. Eligibility
8 criteria shall include being a first-time freshman or a transfer student
9 and enrollment in an eligible program of study.

10 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
11 means:

12 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study at a state
13 college in rangeland management, industrial technology, criminal justice,
14 business administration, education, communication, or computer
15 information systems; and

16 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study
17 designated by the Department of Economic Development, in collaboration
18 with the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, based on
19 periodic reviews of workforce needs in the state.

20 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
21 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
22 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
23 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

24 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by a scholarship
25 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
26 board.

27 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
28 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
29 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
30 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
31 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible

1 program of study.

2 (5) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall
3 collect information on each state college scholarship recipient and shall
4 report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on
5 or before December 1 of each year the following information for each
6 eligible program of study at a state college in the current or prior
7 academic year:

8 (a) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
9 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
10 in the program as of September 30 for the current academic year;

11 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
12 September 30 for the current academic year and the total number of such
13 scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in the program for such
14 academic year;

15 (c) The total number of students retained in the program from the
16 immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and a
17 comparison of the retention rates between scholarship recipients and
18 nonscholarship students;

19 (d) The number of students participating in an internship, an
20 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related
21 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of
22 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship
23 students;

24 (e) The total number of graduates for the immediately prior academic
25 year, the number of scholarship recipient graduates for such academic
26 year, and a comparison of the graduation rates for scholarship recipients
27 and nonscholarship students; and

28 (f) The number of graduates from the immediately prior academic year
29 who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within four
30 months after graduation and the average starting salary for such
31 graduates.

1 Sec. 4. (1)(a) The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
2 shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship to any eligible university
3 student who is enrolled in an eligible program of study in an amount not
4 to exceed:

5 (i) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who
6 is a transfer student; or

7 (ii) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section:

8 (A) Twenty-five thousand dollars per year for any scholarship
9 recipient who achieved a composite score on a standard college admission
10 test equivalent to a score of at least twenty-eight out of a maximum
11 score of thirty-six; or

12 (B) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who
13 achieved a composite score on a standard college admission test
14 equivalent to a score of at least twenty and less than twenty-eight out
15 of a maximum score of thirty-six.

16 (b) The Board of Regents shall allocate funds appropriated to the
17 board under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act between the university
18 campuses, determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the
19 university, receive and process applications for awards to individual
20 students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship recipients during
21 the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include (i) being a first-
22 time freshman who achieved a composite score on a standard college
23 admission test equivalent to a score of at least twenty out of a maximum
24 score of thirty-six or a transfer student and (ii) enrollment in an
25 eligible program of study.

26 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
27 means:

28 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study offered by the
29 University of Nebraska in mathematics, engineering, health care, and
30 computer information systems; and

31 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study

1 designated by the Department of Economic Development, in collaboration
2 with the Board of Regents, based on periodic reviews of workforce needs
3 in the state.

4 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
5 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
6 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
7 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

8 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by a scholarship
9 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
10 board.

11 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
12 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
13 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
14 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
15 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible
16 program of study.

17 (5) The Board of Regents shall collect information on each
18 university scholarship recipient and shall report electronically to the
19 Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1 of each
20 year the following information for each eligible program of study at the
21 university in the current or prior academic year:

22 (a) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
23 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
24 in the program as of September 30 for the current academic year;

25 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
26 September 30 for the current academic year and the total number of such
27 scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in the program for such
28 academic year;

29 (c) The total number of students retained in the program from the
30 immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and a
31 comparison of the retention rates between scholarship recipients and

1 nonscholarship students;

2 (d) The number of students participating in an internship, an
3 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related
4 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of
5 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship
6 students;

7 (e) The total number of graduates for the immediately prior academic
8 year, the number of scholarship recipient graduates for such academic
9 year, and a comparison of the graduation rates for scholarship recipients
10 and nonscholarship students; and

11 (f) The number of graduates from the immediately prior academic year
12 who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within four
13 months after graduation and the average starting salary for such
14 graduates.

15 Sec. 5. (1)(a) The Department of Economic Development, in
16 collaboration with the community colleges, shall award a Nebraska Career
17 Scholarship that does not exceed a maximum of five thousand dollars per
18 year to any eligible community college student who is enrolled in an
19 eligible program of study in an identified shortage area or skilled trade
20 that meets the workforce needs of the state.

21 (b) The Department of Economic Development shall identify shortage
22 areas and skilled trades that meet workforce needs for purposes of this
23 section and shall periodically review and revise the identification of
24 such shortage areas and skilled trades.

25 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study means
26 a program of study offered by a community college in a shortage area or
27 skilled trade identified pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection.

28 (d) Each community college area, acting as an agent of the state,
29 shall determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the community
30 college, receive and process applications for awards to individual
31 students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship recipients during

1 the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include being a first-time
2 freshman or a transfer student and enrollment in an eligible program of
3 study.

4 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
5 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
6 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
7 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

8 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by the scholarship
9 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
10 board.

11 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
12 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
13 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
14 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
15 scholarship renewal after three years of participation in such eligible
16 program of study.

17 (5) Each community college area shall collect information on each
18 scholarship recipient who has been awarded a Nebraska Career Scholarship
19 by such community college area and shall share such information with the
20 Department of Economic Development.

21 (6) The Department of Economic Development shall report
22 electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or
23 before December 1 of each year the following information:

24 (a) For each eligible program of study at a community college in the
25 current or prior academic year:

26 (i) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
27 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
28 in the program as of the most recent census date for the community
29 college area;

30 (ii) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
31 the most recent census date for the community college area; and

1 (iii) The number of students participating in an internship, an
2 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related
3 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of
4 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship
5 students;

6 (b) The total number of first-time freshman scholarship recipients
7 retained in year two of the scholarship recipient's eligible program of
8 study and a comparison of the retention rate for first-time freshman
9 scholarship recipients to the overall retention rate for first-time
10 freshman students;

11 (c) The total number of first-time freshman scholarship recipients
12 who complete the program of study by earning the certificate, diploma, or
13 degree that signifies completion and a comparison of the on-time
14 completion rate for scholarship recipients to the overall on-time
15 completion rate for all first-time freshman students;

16 (d) The number of scholarship recipients obtaining employment in the
17 state within five fiscal quarters of completion of an eligible program of
18 study using Department of Labor data; and

19 (e) The average salary of scholarship recipients, as determined by
20 the Department of Labor, for the fifth fiscal quarter following
21 completion.

22 (7) The Department of Economic Development shall allocate to
23 community colleges the amount appropriated to the department to carry out
24 this section. The department shall establish a separate budget subprogram
25 for such allocation.

26 Sec. 6. (1)(a) The Department of Economic Development, in
27 collaboration with private colleges that elect to participate, shall
28 award a Nebraska Career Scholarship that does not exceed a maximum of ten
29 thousand dollars per year to any private college student who achieved a
30 composite score on a standard college admission test equivalent to a
31 score of at least eighteen out of a maximum score of thirty-six and who

1 is enrolled in an eligible program of study.

2 (b) Each participating private college, acting as an agent of the
3 state, shall determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the
4 private college, receive and process applications for awards to
5 individual students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship
6 recipients during the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include
7 being a first-time freshman or a transfer student and enrollment in an
8 eligible program of study.

9 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
10 means:

11 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study at a private
12 college in mathematics, health care, and computer information systems;
13 and

14 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study
15 designated by the Department of Economic Development based on periodic
16 reviews of workforce needs in the state.

17 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
18 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
19 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
20 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

21 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by the scholarship
22 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
23 board.

24 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
25 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
26 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
27 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
28 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible
29 program of study.

30 (5) Each participating private college shall collect information on
31 each scholarship recipient who has been awarded a Nebraska Career

1 Scholarship by such private college and shall share such information with
2 the Department of Economic Development.

3 (6) The Department of Economic Development shall report
4 electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or
5 before December 1 of each year the following information for each
6 eligible program of study at a private college in the current or prior
7 academic year:

8 (a) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
9 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
10 in the program as of September 30 for the current academic year;

11 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
12 September 30 for the current academic year and the total number of such
13 scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in the program for such
14 academic year;

15 (c) The total number of students retained in the program and a
16 comparison of the retention rates between scholarship recipients and
17 nonscholarship students;

18 (d) The number of students participating in an internship, an
19 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related
20 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of
21 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship
22 students;

23 (e) The total number of graduates for the immediately prior academic
24 year, the number of scholarship recipient graduates for such academic
25 year, and a comparison of the graduation rates for scholarship recipients
26 and nonscholarship students; and

27 (f) The number of graduates from the immediately prior academic year
28 who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within four
29 months after graduation and the average starting salary for such
30 graduates.

31 (7) The Department of Economic Development shall allocate the amount

1 appropriated to the department to carry out this section to private
2 colleges that elect to participate under the Nebraska Career Scholarship
3 Act. The department shall establish a separate budget subprogram for such
4 allocations.

5 Sec. 7. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate fifty
6 thousand dollars for fiscal year 2022-23 from the General Fund to the
7 Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges for cooperative programs
8 with Wayne State College.

9 Sec. 8. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this act become operative
10 on July 1, 2023. The other sections of this act become operative on their
11 effective date.