

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1027

Introduced by Hunt, 8.

Read first time January 13, 2022

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to define terms; to provide for
2 grants to schools that discontinue use of American Indian mascots;
3 and to provide powers and duties to the State Department of
4 Education.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section:

2 (a) American Indian mascot means a name, symbol, or image that
3 depicts or refers to an American Indian tribe, individual, custom, or
4 tradition that is used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team
5 name by a public school;

6 (b) Department means the State Department of Education; and

7 (c) Public school means any school offering instruction in
8 elementary or high school grades which is supported by public funds and
9 wholly under the control and management of the State of Nebraska or any
10 of its subdivisions.

11 (2) Any public school with an American Indian mascot as of the
12 effective date of this act that voluntarily discontinues the use of such
13 American Indian mascot shall be eligible to apply for and receive a grant
14 from the department to help offset the costs associated with the
15 discontinued use of such American Indian mascot.

16 (3)(a) The department shall award grants of up to two hundred
17 thousand dollars to public schools that apply to the department in order
18 of priority based on criteria established by the department. The
19 department shall establish procedures and criteria for awarding such
20 grants that shall include, but not be limited to:

21 (i) Application requirements and the deadline for submission of
22 applications; and

23 (ii) A system for prioritizing grant applications, which focuses on
24 the necessity of each project described in the application and which has
25 as the first priority any application that describes capital construction
26 projects deemed necessary by the department for the public school to
27 discontinue use of the American Indian mascot.

28 (b) Any grant received by a public school pursuant to this section
29 shall only be used for a purpose described in the application.