

AMENDMENTS TO LB516

Introduced by Walz, 15.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           Section 1. Section 79-2,143, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,  
4 is amended to read:

5           79-2,143   (1) The position of state school security director is  
6 created within the State Department of Education. The Commissioner of  
7 Education shall appoint the director based on experience, knowledge, and  
8 skills in the field of school security.

9           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that regionally focused  
10 specialists be hired as employees to be placed to assist approved or  
11 accredited public and nonpublic schools and to increase the availability  
12 of training, provide tailored technical support for the unique needs of  
13 each region, and serve as a central point of contact for schools. Such  
14 employees shall be placed under the direction of the state school  
15 security director.

16           Sec. 2. Section 79-3106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
17 2022, is amended to read:

18           79-3106   (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that federal funds  
19 shall be used to implement the School Safety and Security Reporting  
20 System Act for fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. The  
21 Commissioner of Education shall electronically report data, a cost-  
22 benefit analysis, and a funding recommendation regarding the continued  
23 viability of the Safe2HelpNE report line to the Appropriations Committee  
24 of the Legislature and the Education Committee of the Legislature on or  
25 before January 5, 2024.

26           (2) Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, it is the intent of the  
27 Legislature to fund the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act

1 using General Funds.

2       Sec. 3. (1) The Commissioner of Education shall create and  
3 administer a grant program to provide funding to school districts and  
4 educational service units on behalf of approved or accredited nonpublic  
5 schools, for security-related infrastructure projects. Such projects may  
6 include, but are not limited to, surveillance equipment, door-locking  
7 systems, and double-entry doors for school buildings. Subject to  
8 available appropriations, the department shall provide a grant to any  
9 school district or educational service unit that applies for such grant  
10 for use for qualifying projects. The amount of such grant shall be a  
11 proportionate share of the total amount appropriated for such grants in  
12 subsection (4) of this section and:

13       (a) A school district's share shall be based on the percentage of  
14 students attending such school district according to the most recent  
15 enrollment data collected by the State Department of Education; and

16       (b) An educational service unit's share shall be based on the number  
17 of approved or accredited nonpublic schools that contract with such  
18 educational service unit for funding for qualifying projects as provided  
19 in subdivision (2)(b) of this section.

20       (2)(a) A school district may apply to the department for a grant on  
21 forms and in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. A  
22 school district receiving a grant under this section shall divide the use  
23 of such grant funds as evenly as possible among all eligible school  
24 buildings within such district.

25       (b) An educational service unit may apply to the department for a  
26 grant on forms and in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of  
27 Education for use for funding qualifying projects at approved or  
28 accredited nonpublic schools which contract with such educational service  
29 unit on such qualifying projects. An approved or accredited nonpublic  
30 school may apply to and contract with the appropriate educational service  
31 unit in the school's area in a manner prescribed by the educational

1 service unit for funding for qualifying projects pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 (3) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and  
4 regulations to carry out this section.

5 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate fifteen  
6 million dollars from the General Fund to the State Department of  
7 Education to administer the grant program pursuant to this section.

8 Sec. 4. (1) The State Department of Education shall create and  
9 administer a grant program to provide funding to hire mental health  
10 practitioners and school psychologists to provide access to mental and  
11 behavioral health supports to students at an approved or accredited  
12 public or nonpublic school and within the community.

13 (2) A local public health department or an educational service unit  
14 may apply to the department, on forms and in a manner prescribed by the  
15 department, for a grant to hire a mental health practitioner or school  
16 psychologist to provide mental and behavioral health supports to students  
17 and serve as a liaison to approved and accredited public and nonpublic  
18 schools within the area served by such local public health department or  
19 educational service unit.

20 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five million  
21 dollars from the General Fund to administer such grant program.

22 Sec. 5. Original section 79-2,143, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
23 Nebraska, and section 79-3106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
24 2022, are repealed.