

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1402

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 06, 2024
Committee On: Appropriations
Introducer: Linehan
One Liner: Appropriate funds to the State Treasurer for the purpose of providing grants to scholarship-granting organizations

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Armendariz, Clements, Dover, Erdman, Lippincott, McDonnell
Nay:	3	Senators Dorn, Vargas, Wishart
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Lou Ann Linehan
Brandon Villanueva Sanchez
Clarice Jackson
Beverly Vargas
Betzy Bravo
Javier Bravo
Maribel Bravo
Dawnell Glunz
Carlos Callejas
Robert Zigeler

Nicole Fox
Kirby Klappenback
Patrick Graff
Dusty Vaughan

Opponents:

Scott Norby

Rita Bennett
Kathy Danek
Rebecca Firestone
Jaden Perkins

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Self
Self
Self
Self
Self
Grand Island Central Catholic School
Grand Island Central Catholic School
LCMS Lutheran Schools, Nebraska Coalition of Non Public Schools
Platte Institute
Self
American Federation for Children
Yes Every Kid

Representing:

Nebraska State Education Association, Greater Nebraska School Association, Schools Taking Action for Nebraska
Self
Lincoln Public Schools
OpenSky Policy Institute
Hartland Workers Centers



Shavonna Holman
Dunixi Guereca
Ashley Aldabute
Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek
Maghie Miller- Jenkins
Judy King
Jacob Carmichael
Anthony Schutz

Omaha Public Schools
Stand for Schools
Self
Self
Self
Self
Self
Self

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1402 appropriates \$25 million for FY2024-25 for the purpose of providing for education scholarships to be distributed through the office of the State Treasurer.

Nebraska Students who are (A) receiving an education scholarship for the first time and are entering kindergarten, sixth grade, or ninth grade in a qualified school or (B) transferring from a public school at which the student was enrolled for at least one semester immediately preceding the first semester for which the student received an education scholarship to a qualified school.

Qualified school is defined as any nongovernmental, privately operated elementary or secondary school located in this state that meets certain criteria.

Scholarship granting organizations may apply to the State Treasurer for a grant which shall be used to provide education scholarships to eligible students to pay the costs associated with attending a qualified school. LB1402 also provides prioritization criteria which applicants shall follow when awarding scholarships.

LB 1402 includes intent for the State Treasurer to continue making grants in FY2025-26 and each year thereafter, and includes intent that if the total amount of grants awarded in any fiscal year exceeds ninety percent of the appropriation for that fiscal year, the appropriation the following year shall be increased by 25%, not to exceed a maximum appropriation of \$100 million.

Section 2 is the emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

AM2679 strikes the original provisions and becomes the bill. AM2679 provides for education scholarships to be distributed through the office of the State Treasurer.

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The annual limit on the total amount of grants awarded shall be twenty-five million for fiscal year 2024-25. For each fiscal year thereafter, the annual limit shall be calculated by taking the annual limit from the prior fiscal year and multiplying that amount by (a) one hundred twenty-five percent if the total amount of grants awarded in the prior fiscal year exceeded ninety percent of the annual limit for that fiscal year or (b) one hundred percent if the total amount of grants awarded did not exceed ninety percent. The annual limit may be increased as provided until it reaches one hundred million dollars. Thereafter, no further increases shall be allowed.

AM2679 includes intent to appropriate funds pursuant to the annual grant award limitations.

Section 2 is the emergency clause.

AM2679 (Committee Amendment)

Motion to include AM 2679 to LB 1402

Vote Results: 9-0-0

Voting Aye: Senator Clements, Senator Wishart, Senator Lippincott, Senator McDonnell, Senator Armendariz, Senator Erdman, Senator Dorn, Senator Vargas, Senator Dover

Voting Nay: None

Present Not Voting: None

Robert Clements, Chairperson

