

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB201

Hearing Date: Monday February 13, 2023
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Vargas
One Liner: Provide a high school graduation requirement relating to federal student aid

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Briese, Conrad, Linehan, Sanders, Walz
Nay:	1	Senator Albrecht
Absent:	1	Senator Wayne
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Murman

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tony Vargas
Jane Seu
Mike Baumgartner
Justin Chase Brown
Paul Turman

Representing:

Introducer
American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
University of Nebraska System
Nebraska State College System

Opponents:

Kyle McGowan

Patrick Peterson

Representing:

Nebraska Council of School Administrators, STANCE,
NRCSA, NASB
Nebraska Freedom Coalition

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 201 would add credit requirements for graduation in the subjects of finance / financial literacy and also in computer science and technology. The bill would also require public high school students to complete and submit the FAFSA, with some exceptions.

Amends 79-729

SECTION 1

1.1 Legislature recognizes that Nebraska high school graduates should possess certain minimum levels of knowledge, skills, and understanding.

1.2 Presents credit hours requirement for graduation and core curriculum requirements. Beginning in 2023-24 public school students have the additional requirement of at least five credits in finance or financial literacy.
Beginning in 2026-27 public school students have the additional requirement of at least five credits or the equivalent of one-semester of instruction in computer science and technology.

1.3 Beginning in school year 2024-25 each public high school students shall complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) with some exceptions provided.

The Commissioner of Education shall prescribe the forms used in accordance with this legislation.

High school principals are provided reporting and compliance standards to be submitted to the school district and DOE.

The Commissioner of Education will be required to submit an annual report to the DOE.

1.4 The State Board of Education may recommend statewide graduation guidelines and the governing board of any high school may for specific guidelines that do not conflict with this legislation.

1.5 IEP students are exempted when the IEP prescribes a different course of instruction.

1.6 Defines high school.

1.7 The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate rules pursuant to this legislation such as, but not limited to: timelines, standards, instruction, proof of compliance, and reporting requirements.

SECTION 2

Original section 79-729 is repealed.

Dave Murman, Chairperson