

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 519

Introduced by Walz, 15.

Read first time January 17, 2023

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend sections 79-809,
2 79-871, and 79-8,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and
3 sections 79-808, 79-810, 79-813, 79-861, and 79-8,137, Revised
4 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to eliminate certification
5 fees for teaching certificates as prescribed; to create and
6 terminate funds; to state intent regarding an appropriation; to
7 change provisions of the Excellence in Teaching Act; to adopt the
8 Student Teaching Assistance Act; to harmonize provisions; and to
9 repeal the original sections.
10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-808, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2022, is amended to read:

3 79-808 (1) The board shall establish, adopt, and promulgate
4 appropriate rules, regulations, and procedures governing the issuance,
5 renewal, conversion, suspension, and revocation of certificates and
6 permits to teach, provide special services, and administer based upon (a)
7 earned college credit in humanities, social and natural sciences,
8 mathematics, or career and technical education, (b) earned college
9 credit, or its equivalent in professional education, for particular
10 teaching, special services, or administrative assignments, (c) criminal
11 history record information if the applicant has not been a continuous
12 Nebraska resident for five years immediately preceding application for
13 the first issuance of a certificate, (d) human relations training, (e)
14 successful teaching, administration, or provision of special services,
15 and (f) moral, mental, and physical fitness for teaching, all in
16 accordance with sound educational practices. Such rules, regulations, and
17 procedures shall also provide for endorsement requirements to indicate
18 areas of specialization on such certificates and permits.

19 (2) The board may issue a temporary certificate, valid for a period
20 not to exceed two years, to any applicant for certification who has not
21 completed the human relations training requirement.

22 (3) Members of any advisory committee established by the board to
23 assist the board in teacher education and certification matters shall be
24 reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. Each
25 school district which has an employee who serves as a member of such
26 committee and which is required to hire a person to replace such member
27 during the member's attendance at meetings or activities of the committee
28 or any subcommittee thereof shall be reimbursed from the General
29 Certification Fund for the expense it incurs from hiring a replacement.
30 School districts may excuse employees who serve on such advisory
31 committees from certain duties which conflict with any advisory committee

1 duties.

2 Sec. 2. Section 79-809, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 79-809 In addition to the requirements in section 79-808, the
5 maximum which the board may require for the issuance of any entry-level
6 certificate or permit shall be that the applicant (1) has a baccalaureate
7 degree that qualifies for a certificate to teach, (2) has satisfactorily
8 completed, within two years of the date of application, an approved
9 program at a standard institution of higher education, (3) has
10 satisfactorily demonstrated basic skills competency, (4) has special
11 education training, and (5) has earned college credit in an approved
12 program, at a standard institution of higher education, for which
13 endorsement is sought, ~~and (6) has paid a nonrefundable fee to the~~
14 ~~department as provided in section 79-810.~~

15 Sec. 3. Section 79-810, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
16 2022, is amended to read:

17 79-810 (1) Certificates and permits shall be issued by the
18 commissioner upon application on forms prescribed and provided by him or
19 her which shall include the applicant's social security number.

20 (2) Each certificate or permit issued by the commissioner shall
21 indicate the area of authorization to teach, provide special services, or
22 administer and any areas of endorsement for which the holder qualifies.
23 During the term of any certificate or permit issued by the commissioner,
24 additional endorsements may be made on the certificate or permit if the
25 holder submits an application, and meets the requirements for issuance of
26 the additional endorsements, ~~and pays a nonrefundable fee as set by the~~
27 ~~commissioner, not to exceed fifty-five dollars.~~

28 (3) The Certification Fund is created. ~~The Any fee received by the~~
29 ~~department under sections 79-806 to 79-815 shall be remitted to the State~~
30 ~~Treasurer for credit to the fund. The fund shall be used by the~~
31 ~~department in paying the costs of certifying educators pursuant to such~~

1 ~~sections and to carry out subsection (3) of section 79-808. For issuance~~
2 ~~of a certificate or permit valid in all schools, the nonrefundable fee~~
3 ~~shall be set by the commissioner, not to exceed seventy-five dollars,~~
4 ~~except that the commissioner shall designate a portion of the fee, not to~~
5 ~~exceed seventeen dollars, that shall be credited to the Professional~~
6 ~~Practices Commission Fund which is created for use by the department to~~
7 ~~pay for the provisions of sections 79-859 to 79-871. For issuance of a~~
8 ~~certificate or permit valid only in nonpublic schools, the nonrefundable~~
9 ~~fee shall be set by the commissioner, not to exceed fifty-five dollars.~~
10 Any money in the Certification Fund or the Professional Practices
11 Commission Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
12 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
13 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. The Certification Fund and the
14 Professional Practices Commission Fund shall terminate on October 1,
15 2023, and the State Treasurer shall transfer any money in such funds on
16 such date to the General Fund.

17 Sec. 4. Section 79-813, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
18 2022, is amended to read:

19 79-813 (1)(a) The board shall authorize the issuance of a
20 certificate or permit to any applicant for such certificate or permit
21 who:

22 (i) Is a military spouse or has been offered employment to teach,
23 administer, or provide special services by an accredited school district
24 in Nebraska or an approved and accredited private, denominational, or
25 parochial school in Nebraska;

26 (ii) Holds a valid certificate or permit currently in force in
27 another state to teach, administer, or provide special services;

28 (iii) Has held such certificate or permit for at least one year;

29 (iv) Is in good standing in all states where a certificate or permit
30 to teach, administer, or provide special services is held;

31 (v) Does not have any pending investigations or complaints against

1 any such certificate or permit; and

2 (vi) Meets all residency and background check requirements otherwise
3 required for a Nebraska certificate or permit. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

4 ~~(vii) Pays any applicable fees.~~

5 (b) The commissioner shall verify that the applicant for a
6 certificate or permit under this subsection meets the requirements of
7 subdivisions (a)(iv) and (v) of this subsection. Such applicant shall not
8 be required to meet the human relations training requirement under
9 section 79-808 to obtain such certification or permit. Such certificate
10 or permit shall be valid for at least three years and shall include the
11 same or similar endorsements to teach in all subject areas for which the
12 applicant had been certified to teach in such other state if a similar
13 endorsement is offered in Nebraska.

14 (c) A preliminary permit shall be issued to an applicant upon
15 submission of the application, ~~payment of the applicable fees,~~ and the
16 successful completion of the criminal history record information check as
17 provided in section 79-814.01. The preliminary permit shall remain in
18 force until the commissioner completes the review of all requirements in
19 subdivision (1)(a) of this section and either issues a certificate or
20 permit or notifies the applicant of the reason such certificate or permit
21 cannot be issued.

22 (d) The board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
23 (i) expedite the processing of an application submitted under this
24 subsection by an applicant whose spouse is serving on active duty at the
25 time of such submission and (ii) specify the documentation necessary to
26 establish the applicant's status as a spouse of a person who is serving
27 on active duty at the time of such submission.

28 (e) For purposes of this subsection:

29 (i) Active duty means full-time duty status in the active uniformed
30 service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and
31 Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. chapters 1209 and

1 1211; and

2 (ii) Military spouse has the same meaning as in section 38-118.01.

3 (2) In addition to certificates and permits issued pursuant to
4 subsection (1) of this section, the board may authorize the issuance of
5 certificates or permits to applicants who hold a valid certificate or
6 permit currently in force in another state if the requirements for the
7 certificate or permit held by the applicant are comparable and equivalent
8 to those required for a similar type of certificate or permit issued
9 under sections 79-806 to 79-815.

10 Sec. 5. Section 79-861, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2022, is amended to read:

12 79-861 (1) The Governor shall appoint a Professional Practices
13 Commission of twelve members nominated by the teaching profession and
14 existing teachers professional organizations. Members shall be
15 representative of elementary classroom teachers, secondary classroom
16 teachers, school administrators, and postsecondary education. Members
17 shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years. No member may
18 succeed himself or herself more than once. Members shall be reimbursed
19 for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. Compensation of
20 members who are public employees shall not be reduced by the agency or
21 body by which they are regularly employed for any absence from service
22 occasioned by attendance upon the business of the commission or any
23 panel, committee, or subcommittee of the commission. Each school district
24 which employs a member of the commission and which is required to employ
25 a person to replace such member during his or her attendance at meetings
26 of the commission or any panel, committee, or subcommittee of the
27 commission shall be reimbursed from the General Professional Practices
28 ~~Commission~~ Fund for the expense the district incurs from employing a
29 replacement.

30 (2) The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson pursuant
31 to the working rules of the commission. The chairperson shall call

1 meetings of the commission, preside at all meetings of the commission en
2 banc, assign the work of the commission to the members, and perform such
3 other supervisory duties as required.

4 (3) A majority of the commission members shall constitute a quorum
5 to transact business. A hearing panel of not less than seven commission
6 members shall hear cases brought before the commission. Members of the
7 hearing panel shall be assigned on a rotating basis. For purposes of
8 hearings, the act or decision of a majority of the commission members
9 sitting on the hearing panel shall in all cases be deemed the final act
10 or decision of the commission.

11 Sec. 6. Section 79-871, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 ~~79-871 All costs and expenses incurred by the commission in~~
14 ~~administering the provisions of sections 79-859 to 79-871 shall be paid~~
15 ~~as provided in section 79-810.~~ The commission shall develop its own
16 budget for administration of sections 79-859 to 79-871, which shall be
17 included as a program in the general budget of the State Department of
18 Education.

19 Sec. 7. Section 79-8,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 79-8,135 (1) The department shall administer the Attracting
22 Excellence to Teaching Program either directly or by contracting with
23 public or private entities.

24 (2) To be eligible for the program, an eligible student shall:

25 (a) Graduate in the top quarter of his or her high school class or
26 have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a four-point
27 scale in an eligible institution;

28 (b) Agree to complete a teacher education program at an eligible
29 institution and, for applicants applying for the first time on or after
30 April 23, 2009, to complete the major on which the applicant's
31 eligibility is based; and

1 (c) Commit to teach in an accredited or approved public or private
2 school in Nebraska upon (i) successful completion of the teacher
3 education program for which the applicant is applying to the Attracting
4 Excellence to Teaching Program and (ii) becoming certified pursuant to
5 sections 79-806 to 79-815.

6 (3) Eligible students may apply on an annual basis for loans in an
7 amount of not more than five ~~three~~ thousand dollars per year. Loans
8 awarded to individual students shall not exceed a cumulative period
9 exceeding five consecutive years. Loans shall only be awarded through an
10 eligible institution. Loans shall be funded pursuant to section
11 79-8,137.05.

12 Sec. 8. Section 79-8,137, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
13 2022, is amended to read:

14 79-8,137 (1)(a) Prior to receiving any money from a loan pursuant to
15 the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program, an eligible student shall
16 enter into a contract with the department. Such contract shall be exempt
17 from the requirements of sections 73-501 to 73-510.

18 (b) For eligible students who applied for the first time prior to
19 April 23, 2009, the contract shall require that if (i) the borrower is
20 not employed as a teacher in Nebraska for a time period equal to the
21 number of years required for loan forgiveness pursuant to subsection (2)
22 of this section and is not enrolled as a full-time student in a graduate
23 program within six months after obtaining an undergraduate degree for
24 which a loan from the program was obtained or (ii) the borrower does not
25 complete the requirements for graduation within five consecutive years
26 after receiving the initial loan under the program, then the loan must be
27 repaid, with interest at the rate fixed pursuant to section 45-103
28 accruing as of the date the borrower signed the contract, and an
29 appropriate penalty as determined by the department may be assessed. If a
30 borrower fails to remain enrolled at an eligible institution or otherwise
31 fails to meet the requirements of an eligible student, repayment of the

1 loan shall commence within six months after such change in eligibility.
2 The State Board of Education may by rules and regulations provide for
3 exceptions to the conditions of repayment pursuant to this subdivision
4 based upon mitigating circumstances.

5 (c) For eligible students who apply for the first time on or after
6 April 23, 2009, the contract shall require that if (i) the borrower is
7 not employed as a full-time teacher teaching in an approved or accredited
8 school in Nebraska and teaching at least a portion of the time in the
9 shortage area for which the loan was received for a time period equal to
10 the number of years required for loan forgiveness pursuant to subsection
11 (3) of this section or is not enrolled as a full-time student in a
12 graduate program within six months after obtaining an undergraduate
13 degree for which a loan from the program was obtained or (ii) the
14 borrower does not complete the requirements for graduation within five
15 consecutive years after receiving the initial loan under the program,
16 then the loan shall be repaid with interest at the rate fixed pursuant to
17 section 45-103 accruing as of the date the borrower signed the contract
18 and actual collection costs as determined by the department. If a
19 borrower fails to remain enrolled at an eligible institution or otherwise
20 fails to continue to be an eligible student, repayment of the loan shall
21 commence within six months after such change in eligibility. The State
22 Board of Education may by rule and regulation provide for exceptions to
23 the conditions of repayment pursuant to this subdivision based upon
24 mitigating circumstances.

25 (2) If the borrower applied for the first time prior to April 23,
26 2009, and (a) successfully completes the teacher education program and
27 becomes certified pursuant to sections 79-806 to 79-815, (b) becomes
28 employed as a teacher in this state within six months of becoming
29 certified, and (c) otherwise meets the requirements of the contract,
30 payments shall be suspended for the number of years that the borrower is
31 required to remain employed as a teacher in this state under the

1 contract. For each year that the borrower teaches in Nebraska pursuant to
2 the contract, payments shall be forgiven in an amount equal to the amount
3 borrowed for one year, except that if the borrower teaches in a school
4 district that is in a local system classified as very sparse as defined
5 in section 79-1003 or teaches in a school district in which at least
6 forty percent of the students are poverty students as defined in section
7 79-1003, payments shall be forgiven each year in an amount equal to the
8 amount borrowed for two years.

9 (3)(a) If the borrower applies for the first time on or after April
10 23, 2009, and (i) successfully completes the teacher education program
11 and major for which the borrower is receiving a forgivable loan pursuant
12 to the program and becomes certified pursuant to sections 79-806 to
13 79-815 with an endorsement in the shortage area for which the loan was
14 received, (ii) becomes employed as a full-time teacher teaching at least
15 a portion of the time in the shortage area for which the loan was
16 received in an approved or accredited school in this state within six
17 months of becoming certified, and (iii) otherwise meets the requirements
18 of the contract, payments shall be suspended for the number of years that
19 the borrower is required to remain employed as a teacher in this state
20 under the contract.

21 (b) Beginning after the first two years of teaching full-time in
22 Nebraska following graduation for the degree for which the loan was
23 received, for each year that the borrower teaches full-time in Nebraska
24 pursuant to the contract, the loan shall be forgiven in an amount equal
25 to five ~~three~~ thousand dollars, except that if the borrower teaches full-
26 time in a school district that is in a local system classified as very
27 sparse as defined in section 79-1003, teaches in a school building that
28 provides free meals to all students pursuant to the community eligibility
29 provision, teaches in a school building in which at least forty percent
30 of the formula students are poverty students as defined in section
31 79-1003, or teaches in an accredited or approved private school in

1 Nebraska in which at least forty percent of the enrolled students
2 qualified for free lunches as determined by the most recent data
3 available from the department, payments shall be forgiven each year in an
4 amount equal to ~~ten~~ six thousand dollars.

5 (4) Beginning on August 1, 2022, if the borrower provides service as
6 a pre-service teacher intern for a full academic semester as part of a
7 clinical experience within an accredited or approved public, private,
8 denominational, or parochial school in Nebraska and subsequently passes
9 all related semester requirements, then the loan shall be forgiven in an
10 amount equal to one thousand dollars for such borrower.

11 Sec. 9. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

12 (a) Since the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency,
13 Nebraska public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools have had
14 difficulty filling open and necessary job positions. Such job positions
15 include teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, food service handlers,
16 librarians, and other support staff; and

17 (b) It is necessary to provide retention payments to public and
18 private, denominational, or parochial elementary and secondary school
19 employees in order to decrease the number of open job positions created
20 by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

21 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate thirty-five
22 million dollars from General Funds for FY2023-24 to the State Department
23 of Education for the purposes of school employee retention.

24 (3)(a) The State Department of Education shall administer a program
25 to provide grants to all school districts and private, denominational, or
26 parochial school employees for purposes of school employee retention.

27 (b) The amount of the grant provided to each school district shall
28 be a proportionate share of the total amount appropriated as described in
29 subsection (2) of this section, less a percentage available for private,
30 denominational, or parochial school employees. Each school district's
31 share shall be based on the percentage of the Nebraska population

1 residing in such school district according to the most recent federal
2 decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the United
3 States Bureau of the Census.

4 (c) A school district receiving such grant shall divide the grant
5 evenly among all eligible school employees at the time of receiving the
6 grant.

7 (d) A private, denominational, or parochial school employee may
8 apply to the State Department of Education for a grant pursuant to this
9 section.

10 (e) The State Department of Education shall administer and
11 coordinate the distribution of grants pursuant to this section.

12 (f) For purposes of this section, eligible school employee means an
13 individual employed by a school. Eligible school employee does not
14 include any school administrator.

15 Sec. 10. Sections 10 to 18 of this act shall be known and may be
16 cited as the Student Teaching Assistance Act.

17 Sec. 11. The purposes of the Student Teaching Assistance Act are
18 to:

19 (1) Address the ongoing teacher shortage throughout the state by
20 eliminating financial barriers to students enrolled in accredited teacher
21 education programs in the State of Nebraska;

22 (2) Retain resident and non-resident graduates of accredited
23 teaching programs as teachers within accredited school districts in
24 Nebraska; and

25 (3) Establish a loan program that requires the borrower to obtain
26 employment as a teacher in Nebraska after graduation.

27 Sec. 12. For purposes of the Student Teaching Assistance Act:

28 (1) Department means the State Department of Education;

29 (2) Eligible institution means a not-for-profit college or
30 university which (a) is located in Nebraska, (b) is accredited by an
31 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of

1 Education as determined to be acceptable by the State Board of Education,
2 (c) has a teacher education program, and (d) if a privately funded
3 college or university, has not opted out of the program pursuant to rules
4 and regulations of the board;

5 (3) Eligible student means a student who meets the requirements for
6 a loan under the Student Teaching Assistance Act as provided in section
7 13 of this act;

8 (4) Full-time student means, in the aggregate, a student who in a
9 twelve-month period is enrolled in twenty-four semester credit hours for
10 undergraduate students or eighteen semester credit hours for graduate
11 students of classroom, laboratory, clinical, practicum, or independent
12 study course work;

13 (5) Student-teaching semester means a semester of full-time
14 enrollment of clinical practice in a school system which provides initial
15 preparation for candidates with a culminating supervised experience to
16 demonstrate competence in the professional teaching roles for which such
17 candidate is applying; and

18 (6) Teacher education program means a program of procedures,
19 coursework, and activities in a college, school, or department of an
20 eligible institution which results in the initial or advanced preparation
21 of teachers, administrators, and other school professionals.

22 Sec. 13. (1) The department shall administer the Student Teaching
23 Assistance Act directly or by contracting with public entities.

24 (2) To be an eligible student under the Student Teaching Assistance
25 Act, a student shall:

26 (a) Agree to complete a teacher education program at an eligible
27 institution;

28 (b) Enroll in a teacher education program at an eligible institution
29 before the start of the next academic semester following an application
30 under the Student Teaching Assistance Act;

31 (c) Maintain status as a full-time student during the student-

1 teaching semester in which a loan under the Student Teaching Assistance
2 Act is requested; and

3 (d) Commit to teach in an approved or accredited public school in
4 Nebraska upon successful completion of the teacher education program for
5 which the applicant is applying to the Student Teaching Assistance Act
6 and become certified pursuant to sections 79-806 to 79-815.

7 (3) An eligible student may apply on an annual basis for a loan of
8 not more than eight thousand five hundred dollars per year for student-
9 teaching semesters. Loans awarded to individual students shall not exceed
10 a cumulative period exceeding five consecutive years. Loans shall only be
11 awarded through an eligible institution.

12 Sec. 14. (1)(a) Prior to receiving any money from a loan pursuant
13 to the Student Teaching Assistance Act, an eligible student shall enter a
14 contract with the department. Such contract shall be exempt from the
15 requirements of sections 73-501 to 73-510.

16 (b) The contract shall require that if (i) the borrower is not
17 employed as a teacher in Nebraska for four years, or two years in a
18 school district that is in a local system classified as very sparse as
19 defined in section 79-1003 or in which at least forty percent of the
20 students are poverty students as defined in section 79-1003, and is not
21 enrolled as a full-time student in a graduate program within six months
22 after obtaining an undergraduate degree for which a loan from the program
23 was obtained or (ii) the borrower does not complete the requirements for
24 graduation within five consecutive years after receiving the initial loan
25 under the program, then the loan must be repaid, with interest at the
26 rate fixed pursuant to section 45-103 accruing as of the date the
27 borrower signed the contract, and an appropriate penalty as determined by
28 the department may be assessed. If a borrower fails to remain enrolled at
29 an eligible institution or otherwise fails to meet the requirements to be
30 an eligible student, repayment of the loan shall commence within six
31 months after such change in eligibility. The State Board of Education may

1 by rules and regulations provide for exceptions to the conditions of
2 repayment pursuant to this subdivision based upon mitigating
3 circumstances.

4 (2) If the borrower (a) successfully completes the teacher education
5 program for which the borrower is receiving a forgivable loan pursuant to
6 the Student Teaching Assistance Act and becomes certified pursuant to
7 sections 79-806 to 79-815, (b) becomes employed as a full-time teacher
8 teaching in an approved or accredited school in this state within six
9 months of becoming certified, and (c) otherwise meets the requirements of
10 the contract, payments shall be suspended for the number of years that
11 the borrower is required to remain employed as a teacher in this state
12 under the contract.

13 (3) For each year that the eligible student teaches in Nebraska
14 pursuant to the contract required in this section, payments shall be
15 forgiven in four annual installments of two thousand one hundred twenty-
16 five dollars, except that if the borrower teaches full-time in a school
17 district that is in a system classified as very sparse as defined in
18 section 79-1003 or teaches in a school in which at least forty percent of
19 the students are poverty students as defined in section 79-1003, payments
20 shall be forgiven in two annual installments of four thousand two hundred
21 fifty dollars.

22 Sec. 15. The department has the administrative responsibility to
23 track borrowers and to develop repayment tracking and collection
24 mechanisms for the Student Teaching Assistance Act. The department may
25 contract for such services. When a loan has been forgiven pursuant to
26 section 13 of this act, the amount forgiven may be taxable income to the
27 borrower and the department shall provide notification of the amount
28 forgiven to the borrower, the Department of Revenue, and the United
29 States Internal Revenue Service if required by the Internal Revenue Code.

30 Sec. 16. (1) Each eligible institution shall file an annual report
31 with the department for the Student Teaching Assistance Act for any

1 fiscal year in which the eligible institution receives funding to
2 distribute to students pursuant to the Student Teaching Assistance Act
3 containing such information as required by rule and regulation. On or
4 before December 31 of each even-numbered year, the department shall
5 submit a report to the Governor, the Clerk of the Legislature, and the
6 Education Committee of the Legislature on the status of the program, the
7 status of the borrowers, and the impact of the loans on the number of
8 teachers in Nebraska. The report submitted to the Clerk of the
9 Legislature and the committee shall be submitted electronically. Each
10 report shall include information on an institution-by-institution basis,
11 the status of borrowers, and a financial statement with a description of
12 the activity of the Student Teaching Assistance Act Cash Fund.

13 (2) Any report pursuant to this section which includes information
14 about borrowers shall exclude confidential information or any other
15 information which specifically identifies a borrower.

16 Sec. 17. The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate
17 rules and regulations to determine teacher shortage areas and to carry
18 out the Student Teaching Assistance Act.

19 Sec. 18. (1) The Student Teaching Assistance Act Fund is created.
20 The fund shall consist of appropriations by the Legislature, loan
21 repayments, penalties, and interest payments received in the course of
22 administering the Student Teaching Assistance Act.

23 (2) For all fiscal years, the department shall be allocated on an
24 annual basis up to thirty million dollars in the aggregate of the funds
25 to be distributed for the Student Teaching Assistance Act to all eligible
26 institutions according to the distribution formula as determined by rule
27 and regulation. The eligible institutions shall act as agents of the
28 department in the distribution of the funds for the Student Teaching
29 Assistance Act to eligible students.

30 (3) Any money in the Student Teaching Assistance Act Fund available
31 for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant

1 to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
2 Investment Act.

3 Sec. 19. Original sections 79-809, 79-871, and 79-8,135, Reissue
4 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 79-808, 79-810, 79-813,
5 79-861, and 79-8,137, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are
6 repealed.