

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1164

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 03, 2026
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Lonowski
One Liner: Adopt the Prior Learning Act

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Murman, Conrad, Hughes, Lonowski, Juarez, Meyer, G., Sanders
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Hunt

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Lonowski
Katie Zulkoski

Representing:

Opening Presenter
College Board

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1164 creates the Prior Learning Act and requires the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to approve and publish a statewide list of prior learning examinations and corresponding cut scores for awarding postsecondary academic credit. The bill further requires Nebraska public postsecondary institutions to adopt written policies awarding credit for approved examinations, prioritize the application of such credit toward degree requirements, and annually report data on credits awarded. LB 1164 authorizes the Commission to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations and establishes statewide public reporting requirements.

Section-by-Section Bill Summary:

Section 1. Names sections 1 to 6 of the bill as the Prior Learning Act.

Section 2. Defines terms used in the bill as follows: 1) Commission refers to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; 2) cut score is the minimum score required to receive postsecondary credit; 3) Nebraska postsecondary institution has the same meaning as in section 85-2403; and 4) prior learning examination means a



postsecondary-level examination approved by the Commission to determine whether a student has knowledge and skills equivalent to those obtained from a postsecondary course in the same subject.

Section 3. Directs the Commission, on or before September 1, 2026, to approve and publish on its website a list of prior learning examinations, including commonly recognized exams, and the cut scores required to receive postsecondary credit from a Nebraska public postsecondary institution, developed in consultation with national recommendations and updated as necessary.

Section 4. Requires each Nebraska public postsecondary institution, by October 1, 2026, to adopt written policies for awarding academic credit based on prior learning examinations that award credit to students meeting or exceeding approved cut scores, prioritize application toward general education and degree requirements, provide for transcript documentation and credit transfer, and make such policies publicly available. A Nebraska public postsecondary institution may require higher cut scores with justification and Commission approval. Each institution must submit its policies to the Commission by October 15, 2026, and the Commission shall provide a statewide summary on its website.

Section 5. Requires each Nebraska public postsecondary institution, beginning December 31, 2027, and annually thereafter, to report data to the Commission regarding the number of students awarded credit based on prior learning examinations, the number and types of credits awarded, the number of credits applied toward degree requirements, and related information. The Commission shall annually compile the data and submit a statewide summary to the Education Committee of the Legislature.

Section 6. Authorizes the Commission to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the bill.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee adopted AM 1907 and AM 2366 as combined in AM 2521. AM 2521 requires the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to act in consultation with public postsecondary institutions to approve a list of prior learning examinations and determine cut scores for each such examination, set the cut scores in a manner consistent with national standards, and update the list of prior learning examinations and cut scores as necessary.

AM 2521 also adds a new subdivision to include prior learning examinations that assess and certify foundational workplace skills and are not associated with a specific high school course to the list of commonly recognized prior learning examinations to be approved by the Commission.

Dave Murman, Chairperson

