

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB119**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday January 29, 2025  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Hardin  
**One Liner:** Provide requirements for the Rural Health Opportunity Program and provide tuition waivers

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 7 Senators Hardin, Ballard, Fredrickson, Hansen, Meyer, Quick, Riepe  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Brian Hardin  
Paul Turman  
Matt Blomstedt  
Jack Moles  
  
Haley Pertzborn

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska State College System  
University of Nebraska  
NRCSA Nebraska Rural Community Schools  
Association  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 119 requires a memorandum of understanding between the Nebraska State Colleges and the University of Nebraska to administer the Rural Health Opportunity Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage students to pursue health care professions in rural communities. Also, this program shall provide tuition waivers to eligible students. An appropriation is provided.

Section 1: For purposes of this section, program is defined as the Rural Health Opportunity Program that encourages students from rural communities to pursue health care professions and return to practice in those rural communities.

The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska are required to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer the program. This memorandum includes a joint application and interview process to select students to participate in the program and provisionally admitted into one



of the eligible health care programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

In order to be eligible, students are required to attend, or be a graduate of, an approved or accredited high school in Nebraska or receive an equivalent of a diploma of high school equivalency in Nebraska. Also, the students are required to have lived in, or been a resident of, a rural area of Nebraska as determined by the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska.

A student who participates in the program is entitled to a waiver of 100% of the cost of tuition and fees per academic year up to 4 years at a state college for the purpose of completing the established health care program coursework at such state college that is required for early admission and transfer to an eligible health care program at UNMC.

It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate sufficient amount of money for each fiscal year to carry out this section.

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Brian Hardin, Chairperson

