

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB960

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 17, 2026
Committee On: Education
Introducer: McKinney
One Liner: Provide a requirement to include nonvoting student members on school boards

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Murman, Conrad, Hughes, Hunt, Juarez, Lonowski, Meyer, G., Sanders
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Terrell McKinney
Daniel Russell
Connor Herbert
Maimoon Qureshi
Marley Helvey
Nora Wessel
Jess Parker

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Stand for Schools
Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs
Self
Self
New Voices
Self

Opponents:

Lisa Albers

Jack Moles

Representing:

Grand Island Public Schools, Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 960 creates new sections of law requiring school boards to include student school board members in a nonvoting, advisory capacity beginning no later than the 2027-28 school year. The bill establishes definitions, selection requirements, eligibility criteria, participation rights in public meetings, prohibitions on voting, and access to confidential information.

Section-by-Section Bill Summary:



Section 1 states the legislative intent to foster civic engagement, leadership development, and student voice by requiring school boards to include student members.

Section 2 defines key terms for the bill, including high school, school board, school district, and student school board member, which refers to a high school student selected to serve in a nonvoting role on a school board.

Section 3 requires every school board to include a number of student school board members equal to the number of elected board members, with selection criteria based on the number of high schools in the district. School boards may use student elections, nominations, or application processes, and student school board members must be in good standing and in grade 10-12 at the time they begin their one-year term beginning no later than the 2027-28 school year.

Section 4 grants student school board members the authority to attend and participate in public meetings, receive materials, sit with the board, act as liaisons to the student body, and introduce or advocate for agenda items if permitted by board policy, while prohibiting them from voting, accessing confidential information, or attending closed or executive sessions.

Section 5 requires all school boards to adopt policies and procedures implementing student school board members by January 1, 2027.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2314 is a white copy amendment to LB 960 that replaces the original bill. AM 2314 does the following:

Section 1 amends section 79-552 to clarify that the board of education of a Class V school district shall consist of nine voting members elected from election districts and provides that the board may also include one or more nonvoting student members selected pursuant to section 79-559.

Section 2 amends § 79-559 to expand eligibility for student representation on school boards by removing the limitation to Class I, II, III, and IV school districts, thereby allowing Class V school districts to also include at least one nonvoting student member.

Section 3. Repealer.

Dave Murman, Chairperson

