

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 119

Introduced by Hardin, 48.

Read first time January 10, 2025

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to require a
- 2 memorandum of understanding regarding the Rural Health Opportunity
- 3 Program; to provide for tuition waivers to eligible students as
- 4 prescribed; and to state intent regarding appropriations.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** (1) For purposes of this section, program means the
2 Rural Health Opportunity Program that encourages students from rural
3 communities to pursue health care professions and return to practice in
4 those rural communities.

5 (2)(a) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and the
6 Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska shall enter into a
7 memorandum of understanding to administer the program, including a joint
8 application and interview process to select students to participate in
9 the program and be provisionally admitted into one of the eligible health
10 care programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

11 (b) To be eligible, students shall:

12 (i) Attend, or be a graduate of, an approved or accredited high
13 school in Nebraska or receive an equivalent of a diploma of high school
14 equivalency in Nebraska; and

15 (ii) Have lived in, or been a resident of, a rural area of Nebraska
16 as determined by the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and
17 the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska.

18 (3) A student who participates in the program is entitled to a
19 waiver of one hundred percent of the cost of tuition and fees per
20 academic year for up to four years at a state college for the purpose of
21 completing the established health care program coursework at such state
22 college that is required for early admission and transfer to an eligible
23 health care program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

24 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate a sufficient
25 amount of money for each fiscal year to carry out this section.