

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 833

Introduced by Kauth, 31.

Read first time January 08, 2026

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to state colleges; to amend sections
2 85-308.01, 85-941, 85-951, 85-956, 85-957, and 85-958, Reissue
3 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change the instructional priorities
4 for state colleges; to change provisions relating to degree programs
5 offered at each of the state colleges; to harmonize provisions; and
6 to repeal the original sections.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 85-308.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
2 is amended to read:

3 85-308.01 The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall
4 have power to confer, upon completion of a ~~four-year course in~~ liberal
5 arts program prescribed by such board, a degree of bachelor of arts or
6 bachelor of science.

7 **Sec. 2.** Section 85-941, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 85-941 The University of Nebraska shall have sole responsibility for
10 all graduate programs at the specialist and master's degree level and all
11 baccalaureate professional programs throughout the public sector of
12 postsecondary education in Nebraska, with the exception of programs in
13 education and other areas authorized by the Legislature at the state
14 colleges. The University of Nebraska shall have primary responsibility
15 for instruction in agriculture and natural resources and primary
16 statewide responsibility for research and public service in agriculture
17 and natural resources. All baccalaureate and baccalaureate transfer
18 programs in agriculture and natural resources initiated after July 1,
19 1978, at ~~state colleges and~~ community colleges shall be conducted in
20 cooperation with the University of Nebraska.

21 **Sec. 3.** Section 85-951, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
22 amended to read:

23 85-951 The state colleges, collectively and individually, shall have
24 as their first instructional priority the provision of baccalaureate
25 general academic, baccalaureate occupational, and baccalaureate
26 professional degree programs in education. The colleges' second
27 instructional priority shall be master's and doctoral programs in
28 education and other areas authorized by the Coordinating Commission for
29 Postsecondary Education pursuant to sections 85-1413 and 85-1414. Such
30 colleges' third priority shall be the continuation and development of
31 applied research and public service activities. The colleges' fourth

1 priority shall be the awarding of the specialist degree in education.

2 **Sec. 4.** Section 85-956, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 85-956 Chadron State College may maintain its existing baccalaureate
5 general academic, baccalaureate occupational, and baccalaureate
6 professional degree programs and shall prioritize limit new baccalaureate
7 degree programs based on the needs of rural Nebraska and to the needs of
8 its unique service area generally defined as the state's western region.
9 Subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State
10 Colleges, Chadron State College may independently award the master's
11 degree in business administration. Subject to approval by the Board of
12 Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, Chadron State College may offer
13 doctoral degrees in education and other master's degree programs upon
14 demonstration of a compelling need in disciplines in which it has a
15 demonstrated capacity as authorized and approved by the Coordinating
16 Commission for Postsecondary Education pursuant to sections 85-1413 and
17 85-1414.

18 **Sec. 5.** Section 85-957, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 85-957 Peru State College may maintain its existing baccalaureate
21 general academic, baccalaureate occupational, and baccalaureate
22 professional degree programs and shall prioritize the development of
23 limit new baccalaureate degree programs based on the needs of rural
24 Nebraska and to the needs of its unique service area generally defined as
25 the state's southeast region. Subject to approval by the Board of
26 Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, Peru State College may offer
27 doctoral degrees in education and other master's degree programs upon
28 demonstration of a compelling need in disciplines in which it has a
29 demonstrated capacity as authorized and approved by the Coordinating
30 Commission for Postsecondary Education pursuant to sections 85-1413 and
31 85-1414.

1 **Sec. 6.** Section 85-958, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 85-958 Wayne State College may maintain its existing baccalaureate
4 general academic, baccalaureate occupational, and baccalaureate
5 professional degree programs and shall prioritize the development of
6 limit new baccalaureate degree programs based on the needs of rural
7 Nebraska and to the needs of its unique service area generally defined as
8 the state's northeast region. Subject to approval by the Board of
9 Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, Wayne State College may
10 independently award the master's degree in business administration.
11 Subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State
12 Colleges, Wayne State College may offer doctoral degrees in education and
13 other master's degree programs upon demonstration of a compelling need in
14 disciplines in which it has a demonstrated capacity as authorized and
15 approved by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
16 pursuant to sections 85-1413 and 85-1414.

17 **Sec. 7.** Original sections 85-308.01, 85-941, 85-951, 85-956,
18 85-957, and 85-958, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.