

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 261

Introduced by Ibach, 44; Bostar, 29; Dorn, 30; Dungan, 26; Kauth, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the fiscal impact of unfunded, statutorily mandated tuition and fee waivers on Nebraska's public university, state colleges, community colleges, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and to assess the broader implications of these waivers and the lack of corresponding state appropriation funding for the lost tuition and fee revenue on students, institutional budgets, and the state's higher education systems. This study shall include, but need not be limited to, the examination of:

(1) The financial impact of such unfunded, mandated tuition waivers on public higher education institutions;

(2) The long-term sustainability of such waivers;

(3) The degree to which such waivers support Nebraska's strategic workforce development objectives; and

(4) Legislative solutions, including Legislative Bill 307, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2025, and funding mechanisms to ensure that such programs do not unduly burden Nebraska's public universities and colleges.

In conducting this interim study, the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature may create a working group composed of representatives from the University of Nebraska, state colleges, community colleges, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System, and other relevant education and legislative stakeholders to identify key issues, gather input from affected parties, and propose potential solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be

designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.