

LEGISLATIVE BILL 897

Passed over the Governor's veto April 19, 1978

Introduced by Nebraska Postsecondary Education Advisory Committee, F. Lewis, 45 and Warner, 25, Chmn.; Cullan, 49; Marvel, 33; Bereuter, 24; Fitzgerald, 14; Murphy, 17; Koch, 12

AN ACT relating to information systems for postsecondary education; to provide for a state-level uniform information system as prescribed; to provide powers and duties; to establish an advisory committee; to provide for severability; and to declare an emergency.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. The Legislature hereby declares that it is the intent and purpose of this act to provide for a state-level uniform information system for all public postsecondary education systems and institutions which will:

- (1) Provide for a coordinated state-level information base regarding the activities of the public postsecondary education systems and institutions;
- (2) Insure that the Legislature and other state and federal agencies obtain timely and accurate information concerning the programs, personnel, students, finances, and facilities of the state's postsecondary education systems and institutions;
- (3) Establish procedures for the uniform definition and reporting of information;
- (4) Avoid unnecessary, duplicative, and conflicting information requests by state-level agencies through the uniform definition and collection of data elements, identification of data necessary for annual reporting to the state, and development of uniform and comparable data classification systems;
- (5) Provide information users and suppliers an opportunity to cooperatively develop and implement a uniform information system; and
- (6) Establish an information base to support state-level planning, budgeting, and performance evaluation activities for postsecondary education.

I

Sec. 2. For purposes of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Board shall mean the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

(2) Committee shall mean the Performance Review and Audit Committee of the Legislature;

(3) Commission shall mean the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; and

(4) Information system shall mean the uniform information system established by this act.

Sec. 3. The committee shall prepare a comprehensive plan for a state-level public postsecondary education information system. The comprehensive plan shall:

(1) Identify the state-level information to be reported on an annual or periodic basis regarding each postsecondary system's and institution's programs, personnel, finances, students, and facilities;

(2) Identify the data elements for which information will be collected and reported to the state;

(3) Identify the information classification formats to be used by the postsecondary systems and institutions in presenting program, financial, student, facility, personnel, and audit information;

(4) Identify the data collection, reporting, and auditing procedures for the information system;

(5) Identify a procedure for updating the information system to meet changing conditions;

(6) Present a four-phase timetable for development, implementation, and evaluation of the information system operational components; and

(7) Make provision for the transfer of the responsibility of operating the uniform information system to an administrative agency upon completion of the development and implementation of all phases of the system.

Sec. 4. Upon approval of the comprehensive plan, the committee shall:

(1) Develop all phases of the information system as authorized by this act;

(2) Develop and define data elements, classification formats, collection and reporting procedures, and information audit requirements of phase 1 of the comprehensive plan by May 1, 1979, of phase 2 by May 1, 1980, of phase 3 by May 1, 1981, and of phase 4 by May 1, 1982;

(3) Evaluate progress towards achievement of all comprehensive plan objectives; and

(4) Establish procedures for the maintenance, evaluation, and updating of the information system upon completion of each phase of the comprehensive plan.

Sec. 5. The committee shall, on or before July 1 of each year, submit an annual report to the Legislature, public postsecondary institutions, and other interested state or local agencies documenting the progress made in the development and implementation of the information system.

Sec. 6. The committee upon approval of the board may contract with any state or private agency for assistance in carrying out this act.

Sec. 7. The commission shall:

(1) Review and verify all information submitted by public postsecondary systems and institutions as part of the Higher Education General Information Survey and make such corrections in the submitted information as are necessary;

(2) Prepare and disseminate an annual report of the information submitted by each public postsecondary system and institution and those private institutions willing to cooperate as part of the Higher Education General Information Survey;

(3) Collect, verify, and audit all information submitted by public postsecondary systems and institutions as part of the information system under sections 3 and 4 of this act; and

(4) Prepare an annual report by July 1 of each year of the information submitted as a part of the information system under procedures established by the committee.

Sec. 8. The Legislative Performance Review and Audit Committee shall establish an advisory committee of information suppliers and users to advise the committee in carrying out this act. The advisory committee shall include representatives from each public postsecondary education system, the Department of Administrative Services, the State Department of Education, the State Office of Planning and Programming, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the State Auditor, and such other representatives as may be necessary to advise the committee.

Sec. 9. Each public postsecondary education system and institution shall report information as required by the committee.

Sec. 10. Each public postsecondary system and institution and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education shall file on or before January 15 of each year with the Legislative Performance Review and Audit Committee a report of information system expenditures that includes the following information:

(1) A report of all expenditures which are the direct result of the implementation of the information system requirements established by the committee; and

(2) A report of all system and institutional information system implementation activities.

Sec. 11. The Legislative Performance Review and Audit Committee shall review all system and institutional information system expenditure reports and may recommend to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council that reimbursements for costs directly associated with the implementation of the committee's information system requirements be provided.

Sec. 12. In order to carry out its responsibilities under this act, the committee shall:

(1) Periodically meet and confer with officials of the state and its political subdivisions having responsibility for postsecondary education services;

(2) Consult with and utilize the services of any office, department, or agency of the state; and

(3) Employ such personnel as may be necessary to assist it in the performance of its duties.

Sec. 13. If any section in this act or any part of any section shall be declared invalid or

LB897

unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions thereof.

Sec. 14. Since an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect, from and after its passage and approval, according to law.