



LB 116 Testimony
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- In 2011, the Legislature directed the Coordinating Commission to study and issue a report on dual-enrollment and career academy practices in Nebraska. As part of that directive, the Commission also was asked to make policy recommendations for dual enrollment programs and career academies.
- The Coordinating Commission made several policy recommendations as part of its report. One recommendation was identical to a requirement included in Section 3 (1) of LB 116 – that a dual-enrollment academic transfer course be taught by an instructor possessing, at a minimum, a master’s degree and at least 18 hours of graduate-level study in the course content area. The Coordinating Commission strongly supports this requirement. We also support the requirement relating to vocational faculty.
- I do need to address Section 3 (2), which refers to “dual-enrollment courses offered by a postsecondary educational institution approved by the Coordinating Commission...to offer such courses...”. The Coordinating Commission is required in statute to approve *academic programs* before they are offered by public institutions; we have no authority to approve or disapprove specific *dual-enrollment courses*. Also, the Commission is required by statute to approve the offering of *any* course an institution wishes to offer outside its designated geographic service area. Some of these courses may be dual enrollment, but it’s the act of offering courses outside the institution’s service area that triggers the review, not the fact that courses are dual enrollment.

- Another clarifying note: Section 3 (2) also refers to “dual enrollment standards approved by the commission...” The Coordinating Commission does not have the authority to enforce dual-enrollment standards; rather, the Commission has published voluntary dual-enrollment standards as part of the *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*.
- One final comment on LB 116, also related to Section 3 (2), regarding acceptance of transfer credits. We believe this would be Nebraska’s first Legislative directive about the acceptance of transfer credit. Those decisions are currently made at the institutional level, or even at the level of colleges and departments within an institution. However, 15 states currently require their public two- and four-year institutions to accept transfer credits earned through dual enrollment programs.