



2013 Nebraska Legislature—Bills of Interest

Jan. 28, 2013

Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
K-12/Higher Education	LB 47	Ashford, McGill	Change provisions related to career academies	Would expand greatly on a career academy bill introduced last session by Sen. Ashford. Much of the additional provisions mirror recommendations made in the CCPE's dual enrollment/career academy report. Would help career academy students pay for the relevant professional credential after finishing a career academy program. Also would financially support school districts who partner to offer career academies. (Most likely smaller, rural districts who may have trouble currently financing career academies.)	Tuesday, Jan. 29
K-12/Higher Education	LB 116	Harms	Create dual-enrollment requirements	Would put into law certain requirements regarding the rigor of dual-enrollment courses, as well as faculty qualifications.	Tuesday, Jan. 29
Higher Education	LB 135	Avery	Teaching restrictions for members of Boards of Governors	Would prohibit members of community college Boards of Governors from teaching at their service area's community college.	Monday, Jan. 28

2013 Nebraska Legislature—Bills of Interest (cont.)

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Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
Higher Education	LB 162	McGill	Establish process for reverse-transfer notification	Would establish a process whereby students at four-year institutions who had transferred from two-year institutions would be notified when they had earned a combined 70 credit hours and therefore are potentially eligible for an associate's degree from the two-year institution.	Tuesday, Jan. 29
Workforce Development/ Higher Education	LB 163	McGill	Require an annual report on workforce needs and education credentials	Would expand current analysis being produced by the Department of Labor, in consultation with CCPE. Would require data from all State Colleges and Universities for a report that would compare state workforce needs to credential production in those areas.	Monday, Feb. 11
Higher Education	LB 211	Adams	Makes NCCA membership optional; specifies CCPE role on community-college funding committee	Addresses two issues: Would make optional community-college membership in Nebraska Community College Association or similar entity; would make the CCPE representative the chair of the committee that will decide how to distribute first \$500,000 of additional state appropriations for community colleges.	Monday, Jan. 28

2013 Nebraska Legislature—Bills of Interest (cont.)

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Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
Higher Education	LB 331	Harms	Revise provisions for Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)	Would adjust NOG eligibility standard to equal to or less than 110 percent of the maximum Expected Family Contribution to qualify for a Pell Grant. Previously, the NOG eligibility level had continued to rise, even though federal Pell eligibility had declined, leading to a larger pool of NOG applicants and less support for those most in need. Proposed by CCPE.	Monday, March 4
Higher Education	LB 332	Harms	Revise provisions for Access College Early (ACE) grant program	Currently, law states that a student's guidance counselor must verify their ACE application; this would allow other designated school officials to verify their applications. Proposed by CCPE.	Monday, March 4
Higher Education	LB 334	Nordquist	Increase state appropriations for Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)	Would appropriate an additional \$2.5 million for NOG in FY 2013-14 and an additional \$2.5 million in 2014-15, for a total increase of \$5 million.	TBD

2013 Nebraska Legislature—Bills of Interest (cont.)

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Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
K-12/Higher Education	LB 366	Cook	Adopt the Remedial Adult Education Act	Would set aside a portion of Education Innovation Fund (from Lottery revenue) to pay for community college programs designed to increase attainment of high-school diplomas or equivalency. Focuses on GED attainment, including funding for computerized GED testing centers.	Monday, Feb. 4
K-12/Higher Education	LB 367	Cook	Adopt the Twenty-First Center Developmental Education Act	Calls for community college initiative to offer more effective and diverse developmental education programs. Includes reporting of data on such programs. Through additional state appropriations, Department of Education would pay community college tuition for up to 30 semester credit hours or 45 quarter credit hours of developmental education for students who test below college-level on ACT Compass test.	Monday, Feb. 4
Higher Education	LB 400	Lautenbaugh, Lathrop, Nordquist	Community college appropriation	Governor's budget called for a roughly \$7 million increase in community-college state aid. This bill would appropriate the full amount requested by community colleges: roughly \$13 million.	TBD

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Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
Higher Education	LB 466	Avery	Technical adjustments to the CCPE's out-of-state approval process	Institutions that have operated in the state for at least 20 years are not required to seek periodic renewal of their authorization to operate; this bill would clarify that provision because of amendments made during the last Legislative session. Proposed by CCPE.	Tuesday, March 5
Higher Education	LB 467	Avery	Add to CCPE's authority re: online authorization	Would authorize the Coordinating Commission to enter into reciprocity agreements re: the offering of online courses. Proposed by CCPE.	Tuesday, March 5
Higher Education	LB 546	Kolowski	Changes to process for approval of revenue-bond projects	The CCPE currently reviews and offers recommendations to the Legislature on any State University or State College construction projects funded by revenue bonds. This would remove the CCPE and the Legislature from the process.	Tuesday, March 5
Higher Education	LB 497	Sullivan	Eliminate lottery funding for Nebraska Opportunity Grant	Beginning July 1, 2016, would eliminate lottery funding for Nebraska Opportunity Grant; in 2011-12, that was \$8.3 million. This would shift that money back to the K-12 portion of lottery funds. The bill also calls for a study of lottery fund allocations, to be completed in 2013.	Tuesday, March 19

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Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
Higher Education	LB 465	Lautenbaugh, Harr, Karpisek	Adopt the College Choice Grant Program	Would create a new grant program, to be administered by the Commission. These grants would be available to low-income students attending private, non-profit institutions.	Monday, March 4
Higher Education	LB 478	Smith	Revisions to Access College Early (ACE) grant program	Would require that at least 25 percent of ACE grants pay for “technical science” courses, i.e., metals and welding, auto mechanics, construction-home maintenance.	Monday, March 4
K-12/Higher Education	LB 480	Lathrop	Create the Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant Program	Would provide financial assistance to community college students career technical education programs. The Commission, in conjunction with Dept. of Labor, would ID “critical industry fields.”	Monday, Feb. 4
K-12/Higher Education	LB 481	Lathrop	Create the Career Education Task Force	Calls for an 11-person committee that studies and reports on career education issues in the state, including alignment between K-12 and postsecondary programs. Members would be from Dept. of Ed., high schools, community colleges, private industry, etc.	Monday, Feb. 4

2013 Nebraska Legislature—Bills of Interest (cont.)

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Category	Bill	Introducer/s	Brief Description	Detail	Hearing Date
Higher Education	LB 491	Cook	Revisions to Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)	Would make major changes to how NOG funds are distributed, resulting in increased funding for students attending private schools and decreased funding for students attending public institutions, particularly community college students.	Monday, March 4
Higher Education	LB 651	Davis	Eliminate property tax funding for community colleges	Would compensate for property-tax elimination with increased state appropriations.	Tuesday, March 5