

This is an NITC staff synopsis of education telecommunications and distance learning-related legislation. Please consult the Nebraska Legislature website, <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/home>, for full text of each bill, bill status, and other additional information or legislation.

LB 601 Create the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (32 pgs)

LB 601 replaces the Distance Education Council (LB 1208—2006) with the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council as of July 1, 2008. Its duties include a) Preparation of strategic plans to assure the cost-efficient and equitable delivery of services across the state; b) Administration of statewide initiatives and provision of statewide services; and c) Coordination of distance education.

The ESU Coordinating Council shall retain the services of the Distance Education Council Executive Director and hire an additional Director. The ESU Coordinating Council shall be funded with 1% of the Core Services Fund.

LB 603 Change core services and technology funding provisions relating to educational service units

For fiscal year 2008-09 and beyond, LB 603 provides a formula and changes provisions relating to core services and technology infrastructure funding. (11 pgs)

LB 656 Provide for temporary funding related to distance education

LB 656 provides for \$200,000 in temporary loan money for Network Nebraska to purchase aggregation routing equipment, installation costs for such equipment, and network transport and shall be repaid by June 30, 2010. (4 pgs)

LB 657 Change provisions relating to distance education

LB 657 defines an elementary distance education course. It allows ESUs with satellite offices and former high school buildings that have or had distance learning rooms to qualify for the \$20,000 equipment reimbursement of LB 1208. It allows for elementary distance education to receive LB 1208 incentives on a dollar per hour basis, if money remains after equipment reimbursement and high school distance learning incentives are distributed. (11 pgs)