

Legislative Update (3/9/2011), 102nd Legislature, First Session

Education Technology-related Bills, January 2011

NITC Legislation Tracker Website: <http://www.nitc.nebraska.gov/itc/sg/legislation.html>

Legislature's 2011 Bills: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/search_by_date.php?SessionDay=2011

Bill roster: LBs 58, 123, 150, 331, 333, 378, 381, 403, 444, 446

LB 58, Provide for a study of dual-enrollment courses and career academies

Introduced by Senator Adams to amend N.R.S. 85-1412(16)

Hearing Date: Tuesday March 15, 2011; Location: Room 1525; Time: 1:30 PM

EXCERPT: In collaboration with the State Department of Education, public postsecondary educational institutions, and school districts, conduct a study regarding the need for uniform policies and practices for dual-enrollment courses and career academies in Nebraska, including transferability of dual-enrollment courses and consistency of administration of career academies. The commission shall report the findings of such study and its recommendations, including recommendations for possible legislation, to the Legislature on or before December 15, 2011. For purposes of this subdivision, dual-enrollment course has the same definition as provided in section 79-1201.01.

LB 123, Provide for disciplinary actions and policies relating to cyber-bullying

Introduced by Senator Heidemann to amend N.R.S. 79-2,137(2)

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 18, 2011; Location: Room 1525; Time: 1:30 PM

[Still in Education Committee]

EXCERPT: Cyber-bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 shall constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, if such conduct causes or is reasonably projected to cause a substantial or material disruption of the school environment or threatens the safety and security of students or school personnel, regardless of whether such conduct occurs or is initiated on or off of school grounds.

LB 150, Provide for posting of notices for public meetings

Introduced by Senator Lathrop to amend N.R.S. 84-1411(1)

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 26, 2011; Location: Room 1507; Time: 1:30 PM

[Indefinitely Postponed]

EXCERPT: Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting by a method designated by each public body and recorded in its minutes. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public. A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee shall also provide such notice on the official Nebraska government web site.

LB 444, Provide methods for notice under the Open Meetings Act

Introduced by Senator Avery to amend N.R.S. 84-1411(1)

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 26, 2011; Location: Room 1507; Time: 1:30 PM

[Still in Government Committee]

EXCERPT: Methods of providing such notice shall include, but not be limited to, publication in a newspaper of general circulation, posting on the public body's web site, or posting in a public building in the community.

LB 331, Change provisions relating to an educational telecommunications network

Introduced by the Education Committee to amend N.R.S. 79-1316(1)

Hearing Date: Monday January 24, 2011; Location: Room 1525; Time: 1:30 PM

[Passed on final reading 46-0-3 on March 4, 2011]

EXCERPT: To promote and sponsor a noncommercial educational television network consisting of no fewer than two general originating broadcast production facilities, one of which shall be located in Omaha, to serve a series of interconnecting units throughout the State of Nebraska.

LB 333, Change allocation provisions relating to the Education Innovation Fund

Introduced by the Education Committee to amend N.R.S. 9-812 (4c, 4d, 4e)

Hearing Date: Monday January 24, 2011; Location: Room 1525; Time: 1:30 PM

[Amended by AM 261, AM 367, AM 497; Passed on final reading 44-0-5 on March 9, 2011]

EXCERPT: (c) For fiscal year 2011-12, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: (i) The first two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund to fund the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program; (ii) the next three million three hundred sixty-five thousand nine hundred sixty-two dollars shall be distributed to school districts as grants pursuant to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program; (iii) the next two million one hundred seventy-five thousand six hundred seventy-three dollars shall be distributed to local systems as grants for approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs for students identified as learners with high ability pursuant to section 79-1108.02; (iv) the next four hundred ninety-one thousand five hundred forty-one dollars shall be used by the department for the development of an integrated early childhood, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary student information system; (v) the next four hundred fifty thousand dollars shall fund the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act; and (vi) the amount remaining shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

(d) For fiscal year 2012-13, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: (i) The first forty-five thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund to fund the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program; (ii) the next three million three hundred sixty-five thousand nine hundred sixty-two dollars shall be distributed to school districts as grants pursuant to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program; (iii) the next two million one hundred seventy-five thousand six hundred seventy-three dollars shall be distributed to local systems as grants for approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs for students identified as learners with high ability pursuant to section 79-1108.02; (iv) the next one hundred eight thousand one hundred thirty-six dollars shall be used by the department for the development of an integrated early childhood, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary student information system; (v) the next four hundred fifty thousand dollars shall fund the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act; and (vi) the amount remaining shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

(e) For fiscal years 2013-14 through 2015-16, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: (i) The first one million dollars shall be transferred to the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund to fund the Excellence in Teaching Act; (ii) the next allocation shall be distributed to local systems as grants for approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs for students identified as learners with high ability pursuant to section 79-1108.02 in an aggregated amount up to the amount distributed in the prior fiscal year for such purposes increased by the basic allowable growth rate pursuant to section 79-1025; (iii) the next allocation shall be used by the State Department of Education for the integrated early childhood, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary student information system in an aggregated amount up to the amount used in the prior fiscal year for such purposes increased by the basic allowable growth rate pursuant to section 79-1025; (iv) the next allocation shall fund the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act in an aggregated amount up to the amount used in the prior fiscal year for such purposes increased by the basic allowable growth rate pursuant to section 79-1025; and (v) the amount remaining shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

LB 378, Provide for fund transfers and change provisions relating to various funds

Introduced by Speaker Flood, on behalf of the Governor

Hearing Date: Monday February 7, 2011; Location: Room 1524; Time: 1:30 PM

[Still in Appropriations Committee]

EXCERPT: Sec. 3. The State Treasurer shall transfer \$2,991,541 from the Education Innovation Fund to the State Department of Education Cash Fund on July 1, 2011, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.

Sec. 4. The State Treasurer shall transfer \$1,108,136 from the Education Innovation Fund to the State Department of Education Cash Fund on July 1, 2012, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.

Sec. 5. The State Treasurer shall transfer \$3,000,000 from the Education Innovation Fund to the State Department of Education Cash Fund on December 31, 2011, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.

Sec. 6. The State Treasurer shall transfer \$2,000,000 from the Education Innovation Fund to the State Department of Education Cash Fund on December 31, 2012, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.

LB 381, Change provisions relating to educational service units

Introduced by Speaker Flood, on behalf of the Governor, to amend N.R.S. 79-1202 (Section 7)

Hearing Date: Monday February 7, 2011; Location: Room 1524; Time: 1:30 PM

[Still in Education Committee]

EXCERPT: (1) Beginning July 1, 2011, educational service units shall not serve or encompass within their boundaries any school district designated as a Class IV or Class V district.

(2) Consistent with subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education shall adjust the boundaries of any educational service unit that has a Class IV or Class V district within such educational service unit's boundaries prior to July 1, 2011. Such boundary adjustments shall align the boundaries of an educational service unit to the boundaries of the remaining

member school districts. Any educational service unit that serves only a Class IV or Class V district shall be dissolved.

(3) If an educational service unit is dissolved pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the Class IV or Class V district previously served by such educational service unit shall succeed to all the property, contracts, and obligations of such educational service unit and shall assume all of such educational service unit's valid contracts and obligations.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2011, no educational service unit that consists of only one member school district shall be formed.

LB 446, Change duties and funding provisions relating to educational service units

Introduced by Senator Adams to amend N.R.S. 79-1217(7), 79-1243.01(2i), 79-1243.01(8)

Hearing Date: Monday February 14, 2011; Location: Room 1525; Time: 1:30 PM

[Still in Education Committee]

EXCERPT: (7) An educational service unit may consist of a single school district if the single school district is either a Class IV or Class V school district. An educational service ~~units~~ unit with only one member school district shall be governed by the school board of such school district and shall participate in one or more of the statewide projects managed by the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council.

(2i) The adjusted students for each single district educational service unit shall equal ninety-five percent of the fall membership for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated if the member school district will not be a member of a learning community and eighty-five percent of the fall membership for such school fiscal year if the member school district will be a member of a learning community pursuant to this section, multiplied by the sparsity adjustment for the educational service unit.

(8) It is the intent of the Legislature that: (a) Funding for core services and technology infrastructure for each educational service unit consist of both amounts received pursuant to this section and an amount greater than or equal to the product of the adjusted valuation for the educational service unit multiplied by the local effort rate; and (b) Each multidistrict educational service unit use an amount equal to at least five percent of such funding for core services and technology infrastructure for cooperative projects between member school districts and that each such educational service unit use an amount equal to at least five percent of such funding for core services and technology infrastructure for statewide projects managed by the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council.

LB 403, Change allocation of the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund

Introduced by Senator Council to amend N.R.S. 9-812 (4h)

Hearing Date: Monday February 14, 2011; Location: Room 1525; Time: 1:30 PM

[Still in Education Committee]

EXCERPT: For fiscal years 2011-12 through 2015-16, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: The first one million five hundred thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund to fund the Excellence in Teaching Act, and the amount remaining in the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.