



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 192**

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**Hearing Date:** January 23, 2007  
**Committee On:** Education

**Introducer(s):** (Harms, 48)

**Title:** Adopt the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and eliminate the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

- |   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 8 | Yes                 | Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes |
| 0 | No                  |   |
| 0 | Present, not voting |   |
| 0 | Absent              |   |
- 

**Proponents:**

Senator John Harms  
Marshall Hill

Tom Perkins  
Dennis Baack  
Thomas O'Neill, Jr.

Brian Halstead  
Bruce Rieker

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Self  
Nebraska Community College Association  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Nebraska Hospital Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 192 would repeal the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act and establish the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act.

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The Access College Early Scholarship Program Act would be established for the purpose of providing financial assistance to low-income high school students who are taking courses for credit at a postsecondary educational institution while still enrolled in high school. Postsecondary educational institutions would include two-year or four-year colleges and universities in Nebraska which are member institutions of an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The program would be administered by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

A high school student would be eligible for the program if the student or a member of his or her immediate family is eligible to receive:

1. Supplemental Security Income;
2. Food stamps;
3. Free or reduced-price lunches under U.S. Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs;
4. Aid to families with dependent children; or
5. Assistance under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

A student may also qualify if the student or a family member has experienced an extreme hardship, which would mean any event including fire, illness, accident, or job loss that has recently resulted in a significant financial difficulty for a high school student and his or her family.

An applicant for the program would be required to complete an application form provided by the Commission and attach a billing statement from the postsecondary educational institution. The student would be required to forward the form and statement to his or her guidance counselor, who would verify the student's eligibility and would forward the information to the Commission.

The Commission would review the application and verify the student's eligibility. The scholarship award would equal the tuition and fees. The Commission would forward the award directly to the postsecondary educational institution. Payments would be made by the Commission in the order the applications were received until there are insufficient funds to fulfill any remaining scholarships. There would not be a limit on the number of scholarships a student could receive under the Act.

The Commission would be authorized to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Act.

Section 85-1412 would be amended by replacing the administration of the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act with the administration of the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act in the duties of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

Sections 85-2001 to 85-2010 would be outright repealed. These sections provide for the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

Although the committee amendments would replace the original provisions to make the amended proposal easier to read, there are a limited number of changes to the original proposal in the committee amendments.

The definition of resident would be replaced with a provision defining a student as a student attending a Nebraska high school. To harmonize with this change, the references to high school students would be replaced with references to students. References to a student's family would also be clarified by referring instead to the student's parent or legal guardian for purposes of determining eligibility for the scholarship program based on extreme hardship or eligibility for low-income programs.

Clarification would be added that the application forms would be developed by the Coordinating Commission. The requirement to attach a billing statement to the application would be deleted. The guidance counselor would have 15 days to forward the information to the Commission and the Commission would have 30 days to notify the student and guidance counselor of the estimated award amount. Notification of the tuition and fees would be provided to the Commission by the student, high school, or postsecondary educational institution as determined by the Commission.

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**Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson**