



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 656**

Hearing Date: March 12, 2007
Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes)
Title: Provide for temporary funding related to distance education

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - X Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Ashford

Proponents:

Senator Ron Raikes
Walter Weir
Bob Uhing

Dan Hoelsing

Gordon Roethemeyer

Representing:

Introducer
University of Nebraska
Distance Education Council / Educational Service Unit #1
Laurel-Concord Public Schools / Coleridge Public Schools / Newcastle Public Schools
Distance Education Council

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 656 would allow up to \$200,000 of leftover funds in the School District Reorganization Fund to be used for temporary funding for aggregation routing equipment and network transport costs for Network Nebraska.

Section 79-1012 would be amended by allowing up to \$200,000 to be used to provide temporary funding for aggregation routing equipment and network transport costs for Network Nebraska if

the funds are available in the School District Reorganization Fund after June 30, 2008. The obligations for payments to reorganized school districts will be completed prior to July 1, 2008. The funds would be available for temporary funding until July 1, 2010. Any funds in excess of the \$200,000 would be transferred to the Education Innovation Fund on July 1, 2008. The remainder would be transferred to the Education Innovation Fund on July 1, 2010.

For fiscal years 2007-08 through 2009-10, a new section would require the Department of Education to provide temporary funding for aggregation routing equipment and network transport cost for Network Nebraska to the Chief Information Officer from the School District Reorganization Fund. The temporary funding would be for the purchase of aggregation routing equipment, installation costs, and network transport. The funds would be repaid to the Education Innovation Fund on or before June 30, 2010 by the Chief Information Officer from funds collected for the administration of Network Nebraska. The total temporary funding would be limited to \$200,000. Applications for the temporary funding would be submitted jointly by the Chief Information Officer and the University of Nebraska. Applications would be required to be on a form specified by the Department and would include a description of the equipment to be purchased, a description of how the equipment would be used for distance education, the network transport costs to be supported, and a timeline for repayment. Late repayments would accrue interest at the delinquent tax rate prescribed in § 45-104.02 from the date of the initial receipt of funds.

The Chief Information Officer or the University of Nebraska would be able to appeal the denial of temporary funding or the assessment of interest to the State Board of Education. A representative of the Chief Information Officer or the University would have an opportunity to present information at the first board meeting following the filing of an appeal. If the funding was denied in error, the Department would be required to pay such amount as soon as practical. If interest was assessed in error, such assessment of interest would be corrected.

The State Board of Education would be authorized to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson