



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1142

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 14, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1142 would authorize a court, if good cause was shown, to order a postsecondary education subsidy for a child. The court will consider the age of the child, the academic ability of the child, the child's financial resources and the financial condition of each parent.

Many 17 and 18 year old children start their postsecondary education when the custodial parent is still receiving child support. However, that child support generally ends sometime during their freshman year of college and in fewer instances, their sophomore year.

Without child support the custodial parent, who generally has less earning capacity, is unable to subsidize postsecondary education and therefore many of these students simply drop out of college for lack of funding. The non-custodial parent may now have remarried and have a second family. More often than not, the non-custodial parent will not support the education of the children from their first family after an order of child support terminates at age 19.

The courts should have the authority to decide if children should have the opportunity to attend college with the support they would have received if the parents had not divorced.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Joel T. Johnson