

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB440

Hearing Date: Monday March 02, 2009
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Council
One Liner: Change diversity criteria under the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Giese, Haar, Howard, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 1 Senator Cornett

Proponents:
Senator Brenda Council
Ron Withem
Amber Hunter
Randy Schmailzl
Nancy Intermill

Representing:
Introducer
University of Nebraska
University of Nebraska
Metro Community College Administration
Nebraska League of Women Voters

Opponents:
Marc Schniederjans
Gerard Harbison

Representing:
Nebraska Civil Rights Initiative
Self

Neutral:
Ernie Chambers

Representing:
Self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 440 would amend the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act by removing descriptions of diversity as being based on race, ethnicity, or cultural background.

Section 85-9,178 would be amended by deleting the specifications of race, ethnicity, and culture from the finding that students of diverse backgrounds find the financial requirements of postsecondary education to be a major obstacle and the finding that there is a compelling interest in attaining greater diversity in student bodies at postsecondary institutions. The specifications would also be removed from the intent to appropriate funds to support a student diversity program.

Section 85-9,182 would be amended by clarifying that criteria for the award of scholarships would be determined in accordance with state and federal law. The committee developing the criteria would be required to include members from diverse groups instead of underrepresented minority groups.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment adds the term "scholarship" to the existing intent language regarding appropriations to support a "student diversity program" for consistency with the remainder of the section and the Student Diversity

Greg Adams, Chairperson