

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 340**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Cook, 13.

Read first time January 15, 2009

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Coordinating Commission for  
2 Postsecondary Education; to amend section 85-1412,  
3 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide a duty  
4 for the commission; to repeal the original section; and  
5 to declare an emergency.

6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 85-1412, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           85-1412 The commission shall have the following  
4 additional powers and duties:

5           (1) Conduct surveys and studies as may be necessary to  
6 undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant  
7 to section 85-1403 and request information from governing  
8 boards and appropriate administrators of public institutions and  
9 other governmental agencies for research projects. All public  
10 institutions and governmental agencies receiving state funds  
11 shall comply with reasonable requests for information under this  
12 subdivision. Public institutions may comply with such requests  
13 pursuant to section 85-1417;

14           (2) Recommend to the Legislature and the Governor  
15 legislation it deems necessary or appropriate to improve  
16 postsecondary education in Nebraska and any other legislation it  
17 deems appropriate to change the role and mission provisions in  
18 sections 85-917 to 85-966.01;

19           (3) Establish any advisory committees as may be necessary  
20 to undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant  
21 to section 85-1403 or to solicit input from affected parties  
22 such as students, faculty, governing boards, administrators  
23 of the public institutions, administrators of the private  
24 nonprofit institutions of postsecondary education and proprietary  
25 institutions in the state, and community and business leaders

1 regarding the coordination function of the commission;

2 (4) Participate in or designate an employee or employees  
3 to participate in any committee which may be created to prepare  
4 a coordinated plan for the delivery of educational programs and  
5 services in Nebraska through the telecommunications system;

6 (5) Seek a close liaison with the State Board of  
7 Education and the State Department of Education in recognition  
8 of the need for close coordination of activities between elementary  
9 and secondary education and postsecondary education;

10 (6) Administer the Integrated Postsecondary Education  
11 Data System or other information system or systems to provide the  
12 commission with timely, comprehensive, and meaningful information  
13 pertinent to the exercise of its duties. The information system  
14 shall be designed to provide comparable data on each public  
15 institution. The commission shall also administer the uniform  
16 information system prescribed in sections 85-1421 to 85-1427 known  
17 as the Nebraska Educational Data System. Public institutions shall  
18 supply the appropriate data for the information system or systems  
19 required by the commission;

20 (7) Administer the Access College Early Scholarship  
21 Program Act and the Nebraska Scholarship Act;

22 (8) Accept and administer loans, grants, and programs  
23 from the federal or state government and from other sources, public  
24 and private, for carrying out any of its functions, including  
25 the administration of privately endowed scholarship programs. Such

1 loans and grants shall not be expended for any other purposes than  
2 those for which the loans and grants were provided. The commission  
3 shall determine eligibility for such loans, grants, and programs,  
4 and such loans and grants shall not be expended unless approved by  
5 the Governor;

6 (9) Consistent with section 85-1620, approve, in a  
7 timely manner, new baccalaureate degree programs to be offered  
8 at private postsecondary career schools as defined in section  
9 85-1603. The commission may charge a reasonable fee based on  
10 its administrative costs for authorizations pursuant to this  
11 subdivision and section 85-1620. The commission shall report such  
12 action to the Commissioner of Education;

13 (10) Pursuant to sections 85-1101 to 85-1104, authorize  
14 out-of-state institutions of higher or postsecondary education to  
15 offer courses or degree programs in this state;

16 (11) Pursuant to sections 85-1105 to 85-1111, approve  
17 or disapprove petitions to establish new private colleges in this  
18 state;

19 (12) On or before December 1, 2000, and on or before  
20 December 1 every two years thereafter, submit to the Legislature  
21 and the Governor a report of its objectives and activities and  
22 any new private colleges in Nebraska and the implementation of any  
23 recommendations of the commission for the preceding two calendar  
24 years;

25 (13) Provide staff support for interstate compacts on

1 postsecondary education; ~~and~~

2 (14) Request inclusion of the commission in any existing  
3 grant review process and information system; ~~and-~~

4 (15) Facilitate a study that explores the following  
5 issues related to the Nebraska community college system:

6 (a) The need for changes to the statutory role and  
7 mission of Nebraska community colleges;

8 (b) Changes in the weighting of courses that may be  
9 necessary for reimbursable educational units to properly reflect  
10 the role and mission of Nebraska community colleges and the cost of  
11 providing such courses;

12 (c) Powers, duties, and mission of the Nebraska Community  
13 College Association or its successor and whether membership in such  
14 an association should be required;

15 (d) Consequences for failing to satisfy current community  
16 college association membership requirements contained in section  
17 85-1502; and

18 (e) State coordination of community colleges in the  
19 absence of a community college association or membership therein.

20 The commission shall include and facilitate discussion  
21 among the state's community colleges in the completion of such  
22 study. Each community college shall participate in good faith with  
23 the conduct of such study. The commission shall report its findings  
24 to the Legislature on or before December 15, 2009.

25 Sec. 2. Original section 85-1412, Reissue Revised

1 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

2                   Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect

3 when passed and approved according to law.