



One Hundred First Legislature - Second Session - 2010
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1069

Chairperson: Greg Adams
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 2, 2010

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

Legislative Bill 1069 would amend the provisions for the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, the core services and technology infrastructure funding formula, and distance education.

The ESU Coordinating Council would be declared a political subdivision with the associated rights and responsibilities, but without taxing authority. The employment of the council director and distance education director would be allowed to rest with an individual ESU, except that the supervisory responsibilities would be required to remain with the Council.

The hold harmless provisions in the formula for core services and technology infrastructure funding for ESU's would be modified. The basic formula of Needs – Resources = Aid is similar to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) formula. The formula currently has two hold harmless provisions based on aid received in prior years. One provides 100% of prior year aid for ESU's that reorganize and the other is based on 95% of the prior year aid. With the proposal, the hold harmless provisions would be based on prior year needs, instead of aid, except that the distance education and telecommunications allowance would be subtracted prior to the hold harmless calculation.

The measure would also clarify and limit the responsibilities of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) with regard to technology equipment purchased by education-related political subdivisions. Reviews for compliance with technical standards would be required for purchases of technology infrastructure hardware components bought with state funds or local tax receipts by education-related political subdivisions and costing more than \$10,000. Currently, all state entities and political subdivisions are generally required to submit all technology projects to the NITC for approval, except that the ESU Coordinating Council is only required to submit purchases over \$10,000 to the technical panel. The technical standards would also be required to not unnecessarily interfere with the use of new technologies or with commercial competition. A requirement for the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to bid for distance education equipment would be modified to allow, but not require, the CIO to continue such bidding. It would also be restated that participation in Network Nebraska is voluntary for any education-related political subdivision, except the University of Nebraska. The University is

a partner with the CIO in the development and maintenance of the network. The costs allowed to be passed on to participants would also be limited.

Obsolete provisions regarding ESU's and distance education would be eliminated.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Greg Adams