

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB446

Hearing Date: Monday February 14, 2011
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Adams
One Liner: Change duties and funding provisions relating to educational service units

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Adams, Avery, Cornett, Council, Haar, Howard, Seiler, Sullivan

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Greg Adams
Matt Blomstedt
Mark Shepard
Liz Standish
John Bonaiuto
Jay Sears

Representing:

Introducer
ESU Coordinating Council
Lincoln Public School
ESU 19
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska State Education Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 446 would limit single district educational service units (ESU's) to those consisting of a Class IV or V school district and require such ESU's to participate in statewide projects managed by the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council. The measure would also require ESU's to meet such requirements or to have at least 4 districts in order to levy a property tax. The core services and technology infrastructure funding formula would be modified to recognize an intent for multidistrict ESU's to use at least 5% of their funds for cooperation between member districts and 5% for statewide projects. The student counts for single district ESU's would be reduced by 5% to reflect the fact that cooperation between member districts within an ESU is not necessary when there is only one member district. Legislative intent would also recognize that funding for core services and technology infrastructure consists of both state and local funds.

Section 79-1217 would be amended by limiting single district ESU's to ESU's consisting of either a Class IV or Class V school district and by requiring such ESU's to participate in one or more statewide projects managed by the ESU Coordinating Council.

Section 79-1225 would be amended by requiring ESU's to have at least four member school districts or be composed of a single Class IV or Class V school district in order to levy a property tax after 2012-13. Current law would require ESU's to have at least two districts in order to levy a property tax beginning with the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Section 79-1241.03 would be amended by reducing the student count for single district ESU's used in the calculation of core services and technology infrastructure funds by 5%. For single district ESU's that do not have a district that is a member of a learning community, the adjusted students prior to the sparsity adjustment would equal 95% of the fall membership. For single district ESU's with a district that is a member of a learning community, the adjusted students prior to the sparsity adjustment would equal 85% of the fall membership. For all ESU's with districts that are members of a learning community, 10% of the fall memberships is attributed to the learning community, instead of the ESU, for the aid calculation. Obsolete language would be eliminated.

Legislative intent would be added stating that funding for core services and technology infrastructure consists of both state funds distributed through the formula and amounts greater than or equal to the product of the local effort rate applied to the adjusted valuation. The intent would also state that multidistrict ESU's are expected to use at least 5% of such funding for cooperative projects between member school districts and that all ESU's are expected to use at least 5% for statewide projects managed by the ESU Coordinating Council.

Greg Adams, Chairperson