

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 47

Introduced by Ashford, 20; McGill, 26.

Read first time January 10, 2013

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend section 85-932.01, Reissue
2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 79-777 and
3 85-1540, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to
4 change provisions relating to career academies; to create
5 a fund; to provide for and change provisions relating to
6 grants as prescribed; to redefine a term; and to repeal
7 the original sections.
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-777, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3 79-777 (1) ~~Any~~ A school district or a consortium, with
4 the approval of the State Department of Education, may establish and
5 operate a career academy. A consortium shall consist of not fewer
6 than three school districts and a community college or a publicly
7 funded four-year college or university. At least one other public
8 agency, private business, private-industry group, or other privately
9 funded entity shall participate in the consortium. The purpose of a
10 career academy is to provide students with a career-based educational
11 curriculum in at least grades eleven and twelve and may provide such
12 career-based curriculum to students in grades nine and ten. A school
13 district may partner with another school district, an educational
14 service unit, a learning community, a postsecondary educational
15 institution, or a private entity in the establishment and operation
16 of a career academy.

17 (2) A consortium described in subsection (1) of this
18 section shall enter into an interlocal agreement pursuant to the
19 Interlocal Cooperation Act. Such interlocal agreement shall:

20 (a) Provide for a governing board of directors and the
21 membership thereof; and

22 (b) Determine which publicly funded participant in the
23 agreement will have charge of the funds of the career academy. Such
24 funds shall be subject to all the same requirements of approval,
25 audits, and budgeting as a school district in the State of Nebraska.

1 ~~(2)—(3)~~ A career academy established pursuant to
2 ~~subsection (1) of this section shall:~~

3 (a) Recruit students who seek a career-based curriculum,
4 which curriculum shall be based on criteria determined by the
5 department;

6 (b) Recruit and hire instructors based on their expertise
7 in career-based education; and

8 ~~(c) Provide a rigorous academic curriculum with a
9 transition component to prepare students for the workforce,
10 including, but not limited to, internships, job training, and skills
11 training.~~

12 (c) Provide a rigorous educational program that focuses
13 on career clusters as described in the Nebraska Career Education
14 Programs of Study published by the State Department of Education and
15 on high-demand careers as determined by the Department of Labor. The
16 program shall include, but not be limited to:

17 (i) Workplace skills, basic skills related to career
18 pathways, technology, specific career or job skills, job shadowing,
19 and internships;

20 (ii) Assessment and counseling as determined by the State
21 Department of Education; and

22 (iii) An advisory board for each career cluster to
23 provide input on skills and knowledge needed for employment.

24 (4) All expenses and revenue of a school district
25 relating to a career academy shall be exempt from budget and

1 expenditure limitations, up to the total amount received as grants
2 under subsection (5) of this section.

3 (5) For each full-time equivalent student enrolled in a
4 career academy sponsored by a consortium, the resident school
5 district of such student shall receive a grant of one thousand five
6 hundred dollars per school year from funds available to the career
7 education division of the State Department of Education. If there are
8 not sufficient funds available to fully fund such grant for each
9 eligible student, all grants under this section shall be prorated
10 such that each eligible student receives the same amount of funds.

11 ~~(3) In addition to funding from the establishing school~~
12 ~~district or any of the district's partners, a~~ (6) A career academy
13 may also receive private donations for operating expenses.

14 ~~(4)~~ (7) The department shall define standards and
15 criteria for (a) the establishment, evaluation, and continuing
16 approval of career academies, (b) career-based curriculum utilized by
17 career academies, (c) the necessary data elements and collection of
18 data pertaining to career academies, including, but not limited to,
19 the number of students enrolled in a career academy and their grade
20 levels, and (d) the establishment of advisory boards consisting of
21 business and education representatives to provide guidance and
22 direction for the operation of career academies.

23 ~~(5)~~ (8) The State Board of Education may adopt and
24 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

25 Sec. 2. (1) The Industry Credential Assessment Fund is

1 created. The fund shall consist of money appropriated by the
2 Legislature and funds contributed pursuant to this section by private
3 businesses, private-industry groups, or other privately funded
4 entities for the purpose of defraying the cost to graduates of a
5 career academy established under section 79-777 of an assessment to
6 obtain an industry-recognized credential. The fund shall be
7 administered by the State Department of Education. The department
8 shall separately account for funds appropriated by the Legislature
9 and funds contributed by private businesses, private-industry groups,
10 or other privately funded entities. A private business, private-
11 industry group, or other privately funded entity may specify the
12 career field its contributions may be used to assist. Any money in
13 the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
14 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and
15 the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

16 (2) A student who completes a course of study in a career
17 academy may apply to the State Department of Education to request
18 assistance, in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars, to
19 defray the cost of an assessment required to obtain an industry-
20 recognized credential related to the course of study which he or she
21 has completed in the career academy. The department shall provide
22 application forms and shall make a timely decision to grant or not
23 grant each request. The department shall notify each applicant of its
24 decision.

25 (3) For each request granted by the department, one-half

1 of the amount of the grant shall be taken from funds appropriated by
2 the Legislature and one-half of such amount from funds contributed by
3 private businesses, private-industry groups, or other privately
4 funded entities. If a private business, private-industry group, or
5 other privately funded entity has specified a career field as
6 provided in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall fund
7 the grant accordingly.

8 (4) If an applicant fails to earn the industry-recognized
9 credential after twice taking and failing the assessment therefor, no
10 further applications from such applicant shall be accepted by the
11 department.

12 Sec. 3. Section 85-932.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of
13 Nebraska, is amended to read:

14 85-932.01 Foundations education shall mean education
15 which includes remedial and developmental programs, adult basic
16 education, general education development, English as a second
17 language, compensatory education, career academies established by a
18 consortium pursuant to section 79-777 and refresher courses.

19 Sec. 4. Section 85-1540, Revised Statutes Cumulative
20 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

21 85-1540 (1) There is hereby created the Nebraska
22 Community College Student Performance and Occupational Education
23 Grant Fund. The fund shall be under the direction of the Nebraska
24 Community College Student Performance and Occupational Education
25 Grant Committee. The fund shall contain any amount available for

1 transfer pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 85-2234 and such
2 other amounts as may be transferred or otherwise accrue to the fund.
3 The fund shall be used to provide aid or grants to the community
4 colleges for (a) applied technology and occupational faculty
5 training, instructional equipment upgrades, employee assessment,
6 preemployment training, employment training, and dislocated worker
7 programs benefiting the State of Nebraska or (b) programs or
8 activities to enhance (i) student performance in the areas of degree,
9 certificate, or diploma completion, retention, or foundations
10 education as defined in section 85-932.01, ~~or~~ (ii) the collection,
11 reporting, analysis, and utilization of student data, and (iii)
12 career academies established by a consortium pursuant to section
13 79-777. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
14 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska
15 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

16 (2) Applications for aid or grants pursuant to this
17 section may be submitted by a community college area independently or
18 in collaboration with other community college areas.

19 Sec. 5. Original section 85-932.01, Reissue Revised
20 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 79-777 and 85-1540, Revised
21 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, are repealed.