

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 480

Introduced by Lathrop, 12.

Read first time January 22, 2013

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend section 85-1412, Revised
2 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to adopt the
3 Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant Program Act; to
4 harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; to
5 repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant Program
3 Act.

4 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Nebraska Career Technical
5 Education Grant Program Act:

6 (1) Board means the Community College Board of Governors
7 for each community college area;

8 (2) Career technical education grant means the award of a
9 financial grant pursuant to the act;

10 (3) Commission shall mean the Coordinating Commission for
11 Postsecondary Education;

12 (4) Critical industry field program means a program that
13 trains future workers for careers in technical fields that currently
14 or are projected to be in high demand of skilled workers;

15 (5) Designated career technical education program means a
16 program operated at an eligible institution in a critical industry
17 field program as identified by the commission and the Department of
18 Labor pursuant to section 4 of this act;

19 (6) Eligible institution means a community college
20 governed by a Community College Board of Governors or a community
21 college operated by a tribal authority in Nebraska; and

22 (7) Eligible student means an individual enrolled in at
23 least twelve credit hours within a twelve-month period and who meets
24 additional criteria developed by the commission.

25 Sec. 3. The purposes of the Nebraska Career Technical

1 Education Grant Program are to:

2 (1) Provide financial assistance in the form of career
3 technical education grants to attract students to specific designated
4 career technical education programs at community colleges in Nebraska
5 in order to prepare workers for careers in critical industry fields
6 in Nebraska;

7 (2) Work with business and industry organizations to
8 identify critical industry fields in Nebraska that are in need of or
9 will be in need of highly skilled workers now and in the future;

10 (3) Provide employers in Nebraska with on-demand
11 availability of skilled workers and industry with a steady pipeline
12 of talent development; and

13 (4) Provide for cooperating with business and industry
14 organizations to fund the program now and in the future.

15 Sec. 4. (1) The Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant
16 Program is created. The commission shall administer the program. To
17 be eligible for a career technical education grant from the program,
18 an eligible student shall:

19 (a) Be enrolled in classes in a designated career
20 technical education program at an eligible institution; and

21 (b) Intend to work in a business or industry in a
22 critical industry field in Nebraska upon successful completion of a
23 designated career technical education program at an eligible
24 institution.

25 (2) An eligible student may apply annually for a grant

1 from the program in an amount of not more than one thousand dollars
2 per academic year.

3 (3) The commission in conjunction with the Department of
4 Labor and eligible institutions shall identify critical industry
5 fields. The commission shall by rule and regulation provide a process
6 for applying for grants and for granting or denying such applications
7 and guidelines for distribution of such grants to successful
8 applicants.

9 Sec. 5. The commission shall file an annual report with
10 the Clerk of the Legislature containing information on the number of
11 career technical education grants awarded each year, details on the
12 designated career technical education programs taken by the grantees,
13 including the institutions in which the grantees are enrolled, and
14 profile information about the grantees.

15 Sec. 6. The Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant
16 Program Fund is created. The fund shall be used to carry out the
17 purposes of the Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant Program
18 Act. The commission may solicit and receive donations from
19 individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or other sources
20 for credit to the fund. Individuals, businesses, and nonprofit
21 organizations who or which donate to the fund may request that the
22 commission use such donated funds for specific programs at eligible
23 institutions. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
24 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska
25 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

1 Sec. 7. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules
2 and regulations to carry out the Nebraska Career Technical Education
3 Grant Program Act.

4 Sec. 8. Section 85-1412, Revised Statutes Cumulative
5 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

6 85-1412 The commission shall have the following
7 additional powers and duties:

8 (1) Conduct surveys and studies as may be necessary to
9 undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant to
10 section 85-1403 and request information from governing boards and
11 appropriate administrators of public institutions and other
12 governmental agencies for research projects. All public institutions
13 and governmental agencies receiving state funds shall comply with
14 reasonable requests for information under this subdivision. Public
15 institutions may comply with such requests pursuant to section
16 85-1417;

17 (2) Recommend to the Legislature and the Governor
18 legislation it deems necessary or appropriate to improve
19 postsecondary education in Nebraska and any other legislation it
20 deems appropriate to change the role and mission provisions in
21 sections 85-917 to 85-966.01. The recommendations submitted to the
22 Legislature shall be submitted electronically;

23 (3) Establish any advisory committees as may be necessary
24 to undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant to
25 section 85-1403 or to solicit input from affected parties such as

1 students, faculty, governing boards, administrators of the public
2 institutions, administrators of the private nonprofit institutions of
3 postsecondary education and proprietary institutions in the state,
4 and community and business leaders regarding the coordination
5 function of the commission;

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

10 (5) Seek a close liaison with the State Board of
11 Education and the State Department of Education in recognition of the
12 need for close coordination of activities between elementary and
13 secondary education and postsecondary education;

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

24 (7) Administer the Access College Early Scholarship
25 Program Act, the Nebraska Career Technical Education Grant Program

1 Act, the Community College Aid Act, the Nebraska Opportunity Grant
2 Act, and the Postsecondary Institution Act;

3 (8) Accept and administer loans, grants, and programs
4 from the federal or state government and from other sources, public
5 and private, for carrying out any of its functions, including the
6 administration of privately endowed scholarship programs. Such loans
7 and grants shall not be expended for any other purposes than those
8 for which the loans and grants were provided. The commission shall
9 determine eligibility for such loans, grants, and programs, and such
10 loans and grants shall not be expended unless approved by the
11 Governor;

12 (9) On or before December 1 of each even-numbered year,
13 submit to the Legislature and the Governor a report of its objectives
14 and activities and any new private colleges in Nebraska and the
15 implementation of any recommendations of the commission for the
16 preceding two calendar years. The report submitted to the Legislature
17 shall be submitted electronically;

18 (10) Provide staff support for interstate compacts on
19 postsecondary education; and

20 (11) Request inclusion of the commission in any existing
21 grant review process and information system.

22 Sec. 9. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2013.

23 Sec. 10. Original section 85-1412, Revised Statutes
24 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.

25 Sec. 11. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect

1 when passed and approved according to law.