

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB178

Chairman: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 26, 2013

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

LB 178 would eliminate the mandate now placed on the 11 school districts contained within the Learning Community to pay for transporting students to one of their schools if those students meet one of the 4 criteria set forth in current law. The bill would also strike the authority for the Learning Community Coordinating Council to use aid payments it receives to pay for transporting qualified parents to school functions. The bill contains the emergency clause and would become operative on July 1, 2013.

Under current law, school boards are only required to pay the costs of transporting students to and from school when the students live more than four miles from the schoolhouse. Parents incur the costs of getting their children to and from school unless a student meets one of the statutory categories. However, under the learning Community laws, the Bellevue, Bennington, Douglas County West, Elkhorn, Gretna, Millard, Omaha, Papillion-LaVista, Ralston, Springfield-Platteview, and Westside public school districts are required to pay the costs of transporting students within the Learning Community.

Current law also requires those 11 school districts to pay a transportation allowance at a rate of 285% of the statutory mileage rate times each mile actually and necessarily traveled, on each day of attendance, beyond which the one-way distance from the residence of the student exceeds 3 miles.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bill Kintner