

AMENDMENTS TO LB525

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM1306)

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 Sec. 3. The Legislature finds that:

3 (1) In order for Nebraska's students to adequately prepare for
4 postsecondary education and careers, public schools in conjunction with
5 educational service units in Nebraska should offer courses of increased
6 educational rigor and relevancy, including, but not limited to, academic
7 programs of excellence, dual-enrollment courses, and career academies;

8 (2) The startup costs of implementing and the ongoing costs of
9 offering such programs, courses, and academies, including, but not
10 limited to, curricula, textbooks, testing fees, postsecondary tuition,
11 technology, equipment, staffing, staff training, and other related
12 expenses, can often exceed the resources available to a school district
13 or an educational service unit; and

14 (3) It is in the best interests of the state to provide a dedicated
15 source of funding to public schools in Nebraska through educational
16 service units for such programs, courses, and academies.

17 Sec. 4. For purposes of sections 3 to 8 of this act:

18 (1) Academic program of excellence means a nationally recognized
19 program, offered in the high school grades that includes a curriculum and
20 pedagogy, professional development for teachers, and a rigorous
21 assessment external to the school system;

22 (2) Career academy means a career academy established pursuant to
23 section 79-777; and

24 (3) Dual-enrollment course means a course taught to students for
25 credit at both a high school and a postsecondary educational institution
26 accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States

1 Department of Education.

2 Sec. 5. (1) Educational service units shall apply on behalf of
3 member school districts to the State Department of Education for
4 reimbursement calculated pursuant to section 6 of this act. School
5 districts seeking reimbursement pursuant to such section shall provide
6 documentation to the appropriate educational service unit of the number
7 of students in each program, course, or academy for which reimbursement
8 is requested and the number of students successfully completing such
9 program, course, or academy.

10 (2) Reimbursement shall be available based on students who
11 successfully complete an academic program of excellence, a dual-
12 enrollment course, or a career academy. Applications shall be submitted
13 based on completions during the immediately preceding fiscal year not
14 later than August 1, 2016, and on or before August 1 of each year
15 thereafter. The department shall award the reimbursements provided for in
16 this section and distribute such reimbursements after September 1 and no
17 later than October 1 of every year beginning in 2016.

18 Sec. 6. (1) For each student who successfully completes an academic
19 program of excellence, a dual-enrollment course, or a career academy, the
20 department shall approve and reimburse the school district through its
21 educational service unit as provided in this section if the school
22 district through its educational service unit has applied pursuant to
23 section 5 of this act.

24 (2) The reimbursement for each qualifying school district shall be
25 determined by (a) dividing the statewide aggregate number of approved
26 students completing academic programs of excellence, dual enrollment
27 courses, and career academies into the total funds appropriated for such
28 purpose and (b) multiplying the result by the district's number of such
29 approved students.

30 (3) For purposes of the general fund budget of expenditures as
31 defined in section 79-1003, funds received pursuant to this section shall

1 be considered special grant funds.

2 Sec. 7. The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate
3 rules and regulations to carry out sections 3 to 8 of this act. Such
4 rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, mechanisms to
5 determine successful student completion of an academic program of
6 excellence, dual-enrollment course, or career academy for purposes of
7 reimbursement authorized by section 6 of this act.

8 Sec. 8. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate from the
9 General Fund two million dollars for fiscal year 2016-17 to carry out the
10 purposes of section 6 of this act.

11 Sec. 26. Section 79-1007.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
12 is amended to read:

13 79-1007.13 The department shall calculate a special receipts
14 allowance for each district equal to the amount of special education,
15 state ward, and accelerated or differentiated curriculum program receipts
16 included in local system formula resources under subdivisions (7), (8),
17 (16), and (17) of section 79-1018.01 and reimbursements under subdivision
18 (19) of section 79-1018.01 attributable to the school district.

19 2. On page 43, line 9, strike "and" and show as stricken; and in
20 line 11 strike the period, show as stricken, and insert "; and
21 (19) Reimbursements pursuant to sections 3 to 8 of this act.".

22 3. Renumber the remaining sections and correct internal references
23 and the repealer accordingly.