

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB906

Hearing Date: Monday January 25, 2016
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Lindstrom
One Liner: Adopt the Law Enforcement Education Act authorizing tuition waivers

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Baker, Groene, Kolowski, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Schnoor, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Brett Lindstrom
John Francavilla
Jeremy Kinsey

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge
Nebraska Fraternal Order of Police and the LaVista Police Department

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 906 is a bill that would provide a thirty percent tuition waiver for up to five years, from Nebraska public postsecondary institutions to all law enforcement officers who work in the state.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1: Creates the Law Enforcement Education Act.

Section 2: Provides the following definitions for purposes of this act:

- Associate Degree Program - means a degree program at a community college, state college, or state university which usually requires 60 semester credit hours for completion or an equivalent... An associate degree program does not include a baccalaureate degree program;
 - Baccalaureate Degree Program - means a degree program at a community college, state college, or state university which usually requires 120 semester credit hours for completion or an equivalent..;
 - Community College - means a public postsecondary educational institution which is part of the community college system and includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of Nebraska;
 - Law Enforcement Officer - means any person who is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the State of Nebraska or any political subdivision of the state for
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more than one hundred hours per year and who is authorized by law to make arrests;

- Law Enforcement Agency - means a police department in a municipality, a sheriff's office, and the Nebraska State Patrol;

- State College - means a public postsecondary educational institution which is part of the Nebraska state college system and includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of Nebraska;

- State University - means a public postsecondary educational institution which is part of the University of Nebraska and includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of Nebraska; and

- Tuition - means the charges and cost of tuition as set by the governing body of a state university, state college, or community college.

Section 3: Requirements of the act:

1. Provides that a law enforcement officer is entitled to a waiver of thirty percent of the resident tuition charges at a state postsecondary institution if the officer:

- a. Maintain satisfactory performance at their law enforcement agency;
- b. Meet all admission requirements at the eligible postsecondary institution; and
- c. Pursue studies in a program leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree.

2. Require eligible state postsecondary institutions to waive thirty percent of the officer's tuition remaining due after subtracting federal financial aid, state scholarships and grants for eligible law enforcement officers during their tenure at the institution. To remain eligible, the officer must comply with all requirements for continued attendance and award of an associate or baccalaureate degree.

3. An application for the tuition waiver must include a verification of the applicant's satisfactory performance as provided by obtaining a certificate of verification from the applicant's superior officer at the law enforcement agency where the applicant is employed. The certificate of verification must be provided to the institution from which the tuition waiver is being sought.

4. Provides that eligible institutions must provide notice of eligibility or ineligibility for the waiver to the officer within 45 days and must include a reason for the determination and provide notice of the ability to appeal the decision pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 4: Provides that eligible institutions must adopt rules and regulations to carry out this act.

Explanation of amendments:

The amendment clarifies that the degree being sought under LB906 must be related to a career in law enforcement.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson