

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB930

Hearing Date: Monday January 25, 2016
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Scheer
One Liner: Change provisions relating to statewide assessments and college admission testing as prescribed

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 Jim Scheer
Bob Evnen
Matt Blomstedt

Dan Alberts
John Bonaiuto
John Fallon
Chris Wilson

Representing:

Introducer
self
Nebraska State Board of Education and Nebraska Department of Education
Lincoln Independent Business Association
Nebraska Association of School Boards
The College Board
ACT Incorporated

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 930 would end the ACT pilot project in 79-759 and would instead provide that in lieu of one of the statewide assessments given in high school, that schools shall administer a standard college admissions test. The Nebraska Department of Education will provide for reimbursement of the costs associated with schools paying students fees to take the test and the costs associated with administering the test.

The funds used for reimbursement will come from the Education Innovation Grant Fund that is currently administered by the Nebraska Department of Education and consist of 17% of lottery dollars that are used for educational purposes. The current uses of lottery dollars as distributed for educational purposes will sunset in 2020 as directed through an Education Committee Priority Bill passed in 2015.

Explanation of amendments:

1. Page 6, lines 30-31, provides that the use of lottery funds as provided under this act will be for the 2017-'18 school year only, after which the Department of Education should include the costs associated with administering the test under

their annual budget request.

2. Pages 7-8, lines 24 thru 12, provides for the following:

- a. Requires the Department of Education to administer a standard college admission test as selected by the State Board of Education to 11th graders in public schools; and
- b. The Department of Education is directed to pay the registration cost for the administration costs associated with the test and may use lottery funds from the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund for this purpose.

3. Page 9, line 11, would amend 79-760.03 to provide that the technical advisory committee created under this section, in addition to reviewing the "statewide assessment plan" and the "state assessment instruments" will also review the "accountability system" developed under the "Quality Education Accountability Act."

4. Page 9, Line 25, Amends 79-760.03, subsection (4) to provide that the requirement for the statewide writing assessment under this subsection ends after the 2016-'17 school year.

5. Page 10, Line 5, Amends 79-760.03, subsection (5) which section contains the requirement for a statewide reading assessment to provide that the statewide reading assessment shall also now include a writing component as determined by the state board.

6. Page 11, Line 1, Amends 79-760.03, subsection (9) which section requires the state board to recommend national assessment instruments for the purpose of national comparison, "to also require the state board beginning in 2017-'18 to select a national assessment instrument that is to be used for a standard college admission test to be administered to 11th grade students in each public school district."

7. Page 12, Line 3, Amends 79-760.03 to allow the state board of education the ability to select assessment instruments for statewide assessment that is consistent with federal requirements. Currently this section allows the state board to select additional grade levels and additional subject areas for statewide assessment instruments to comply with federal requirements.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson