

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 380

Introduced by Morfeld, 46; Hansen, 26.

Read first time January 16, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to create and
- 2 provide duties for the Higher Education Affordability Commission.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Higher Education Affordability Commission is
2 created. The executive committee of the commission shall consist of the
3 following voting members:

4 (a) The Speaker of the Legislature;

5 (b) A member of the Education Committee of the Legislature,
6 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

7 (c) A member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature,
8 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

9 (c) A member of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature, appointed
10 by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council; and

11 (e) Two at-large members of the Legislature, appointed by the
12 Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

13 The voting members of the executive committee shall choose a
14 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the voting members.

15 (2)(a) The President of the University of Nebraska or his or her
16 designee, the Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System or his or
17 her designee, a representative of the private, not for profit colleges
18 and universities in Nebraska, and a representative of the Nebraska
19 community colleges shall be nonvoting ex officio members of the executive
20 committee of the commission.

21 (b) The executive committee may appoint up to two additional
22 nonvoting members of the commission.

23 Sec. 2. (1) The Higher Education Affordability Commission shall:

24 (a) Share, examine, and analyze data and information regarding
25 affordability of postsecondary education in Nebraska with a primary focus
26 on innovative ways to reduce the expense for students and families;

27 (b) Encourage participation and input from academic experts,
28 students, college financial aid advisers, members of the banking
29 community, and others in exploring strategies and solutions to the ever-
30 increasing cost of postsecondary education and the financial burden on
31 students and families; and

1 (c) Research best practices utilized by other states in addressing
2 college affordability, including loan forgiveness programs that allow
3 students to attend a postsecondary educational institution at no cost.

4 (2) To accomplish its duties, the commission may request and receive
5 from any postsecondary educational institution information relating to
6 costs of postsecondary education, including tuition and all fees.

7 (3) On or before December 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a
8 report of its findings and recommendations electronically to the
9 Executive Board of the Legislative Council, the Education Committee of
10 the Legislature, and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature. The
11 report shall include:

12 (a) A ten-year plan to address college affordability;

13 (b) A legislative proposal to create a pilot program to address
14 affordability of postsecondary education from the best and innovative
15 practices in other states; and

16 (c) Other recommendations of the commission to address the overall
17 issue of access to and affordability of postsecondary education in
18 Nebraska.