

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB343

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 03, 2015

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

LB343 is a bill that creates a dedicated source of funding, outside of the current state aide formula, for public schools that implement and offer quality career and college readiness programs, including, but not limited to, programs of excellence, dual-enrollment, and career academies.

LB343 requires school districts to work through their Educational Service Units to apply and receive funding for these programs.

School districts who are currently offering career and college readiness programs are eligible to be reimbursed for each student who successfully completes one or more of these programs. School districts, through their Educational Service Unit, must apply for reimbursement to the Nebraska Department of Education, which is charged with promulgating the rules and regulations to determine the mechanisms for successful student completion.

The intent of LB 343 is to appropriate seven million dollars from the general fund to reimburse school districts who offer these career and college readiness programs. School districts will be reimbursed a percentage per student depending on the number of schools that apply for the funding and the number of students who successfully complete these programs.

LB343 also creates the Career and College Readiness Fund. Money in this fund is available through grants to support schools that are in the initial implementation phase of a college and career readiness program.

School districts, through their Educational Service Units, may apply to the Nebraska Department of Education for a grant to offset the initial costs of implementation. The school district may not receive more than 49% of the total cost of such program. If the program is not implemented successfully in two years, the school district, through its Educational Service Unit, shall return 100% of the grant to the department.

The intent of LB 343 is to appropriate three million dollars for the Career and College Readiness Fund.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Rick Kolowski