

# One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB691

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**Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: January 25, 2016**

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

LB 691 creates the Teacher Education and Health Care Professions Student Grant Program Act. The program, administered by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, would award grants to students in teacher education programs and in health care professions programs at public and private non-profit colleges and universities located in Nebraska.

Nebraska resident students would have to be enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in either teacher education or health professions and have financial need in order to receive awards.

Money would be allocated to the institutions based on the number of bachelor's and master's degrees awarded in teacher education and health care profession programs in the preceding year and separate funds would be set up for each program area.

This bill serves two important purposes. First, it concentrates on workforce needs of the state that will be of paramount importance in the future. Second, it provides a way to provide students with an option to choose an occupation that, while it may not be one with a high wage, is one with a high reward, both for the student and for the citizens of the state. Many students feel that a high student debt load compels them to make certain career choices that they would not otherwise make. LB 691 may give students a tool to choose a career suited to their strengths and a career that will best serve Nebraska in the future.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Adam Morfeld