

AMENDMENTS TO LB1089

Introduced by Education.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           Section 1. Section 79-729, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
4 amended to read:

5           79-729 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance of assuring  
6 that all persons who graduate from Nebraska high schools possess certain  
7 minimum levels of knowledge, skills, and understanding.

8           (2) Beginning in school year 1987-88, each high school student shall  
9 complete a minimum of two hundred high school credit hours prior to  
10 graduation. At least eighty percent of such credit hours shall be core  
11 curriculum courses prescribed by the State Board of Education.

12           (3)(a) Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, each public high  
13 school student shall complete and submit to the United States Department  
14 of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to  
15 graduating from such high school except as otherwise provided in this  
16 subsection.

17           (b) A public high school student shall not be required to comply  
18 with subdivision (3)(a) of this section if:

19           (i) A parent or legal guardian of or a person standing in loco  
20 parentis to such student submits a signed form indicating that such  
21 parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis authorizes  
22 such student to decline to complete and submit a Free Application for  
23 Federal Student Aid; or

24           (ii) The school principal or the school principal's designee  
25 authorizes the student to decline to complete and submit a Free  
26 Application for Federal Student Aid for good cause as determined by the  
27 school principal or the school principal's designee.

1       (c) The Commissioner of Education shall create and adopt a form to  
2 be used by each public high school for purposes of subdivision (3)(b) of  
3 this section. Such form shall be made available:

4       (i) By each public high school to students, parents and legal  
5 guardians of students, and persons standing in loco parentis to students;  
6 and

7       (ii) In English, Spanish, and any other language spoken by a  
8 majority of the students enrolled in any English learner program at such  
9 public high school.

10       (d) A student may sign and submit a Free Application for Federal  
11 Student Aid on the student's own behalf if such student is nineteen years  
12 of age or older or such student is an emancipated minor.

13       (e) The school principal or the school principal's designee of each  
14 public high school shall provide such compliance information to the  
15 school district or governing authority for such public high school and to  
16 the State Department of Education without disclosing, for any student who  
17 has complied with the requirements of this subsection, personally  
18 identifiable information distinguishing whether such compliance was  
19 pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this section or subdivision (3)(b) of  
20 this section. Such school principal or school principal's designee shall  
21 provide separately the aggregate number of students who have not complied  
22 with this subsection, who complied pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this  
23 section, and who complied pursuant to subdivision (3)(b) of this section,  
24 unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law regarding the  
25 confidentiality of student educational information.

26       (f) On or before December 31, 2022, and on or before December 31 of  
27 each year thereafter, the Commission of Education shall electronically  
28 submit a report with the information received by the State Department of  
29 Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(e) of this section to the Clerk of  
30 the Legislature.

31       (4) The State Board of Education may establish recommended statewide

1 graduation guidelines. This section does not prohibit the governing board  
2 of any high school from prescribing specific graduation guidelines as  
3 long as such guidelines do not conflict with this section.

4 (5) This section does not apply to high school students whose  
5 individualized education plans prescribe a different course of  
6 instruction. ~~This section does not prohibit the governing board of any~~  
7 ~~high school from prescribing specific graduation guidelines as long as~~  
8 ~~such guidelines do not conflict with this section.~~

9 (6) For purposes of this section, high school means grades nine  
10 through twelve and credit hour shall be defined by appropriate rules and  
11 regulations of the State Board of Education but shall not be less than  
12 the amount of credit given for successful completion of a course which  
13 meets at least one period per week for at least one semester.

14 (7) The State Department of Education shall adopt and promulgate  
15 rules and regulations as necessary to implement this section. Such rules  
16 and regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

17 (a) A timeline for the distribution of the Free Application for  
18 Federal Student Aid and the form adopted under subdivision (3)(c) of this  
19 section by public high schools and for the submission of the Free  
20 Application for Federal Student Aid and the form adopted under  
21 subdivision (3)(c) of this section by students;

22 (b) Standards regarding the information that a public high school  
23 must provide to students regarding:

24 (i) Instructions for filling out the Free Application for Federal  
25 Student Aid;

26 (ii) The options available to a student under subdivision (3)(b) of  
27 this section if a student wishes to decline to complete and submit a Free  
28 Application for Federal Student Aid; and

29 (iii) The method by which a student shall provide proof to the  
30 public high school that such student has completed and submitted the Free  
31 Application for Federal Student Aid or the form adopted under subdivision

1 (3)(c) of this section; and

2 (c) A requirement for each public high school to report the number  
3 of students who completed and submitted a Free Application for Federal  
4 Student Aid and the number of students who instead submitted the form  
5 adopted under subdivision (3)(c) of this section.

6 Sec. 2. Original section 79-729, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
7 Nebraska, is repealed.