

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB669

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 23, 2021
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Vargas
One Liner: Adopt the Veteran Promise Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents: Tony Vargas	Representing: Introducer
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents: Heath Mello	Representing: University of Nebraska
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Section 1. Creates the Veteran Promise Act.

Section 2. Sets out definitions of uniformed service, commission, eligible military student, and eligible veteran student for the purposes of this act.

Section 3. Requires that each public postsecondary institution in this state automatically accept any eligible military student or any veteran student to enroll as an undergraduate student in online or in-person courses and programs.

Section 4. Provides duties to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to administer this act and report to

the Legislature on the number of students participating under this act and where they are enrolled.

Section 5. Allows the commission to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out this act.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment becomes the bill. The changes from LB669, as introduced are noted below. All other provisions from LB669 are included in the Committee Amendment.

Expands the definitions of "eligible military student" and "eligible veteran student" by removing the requirement to have enlisted prior to December 31, 2022 and applying eligibility to all those who have graduated from a Nebraska High school on or after January 1, 2021. An "eligible veteran student" is also expanded to those who have signed enlisted papers and graduated from a high school in another state on or after Jan 1, 2022.

Removes the definition of "commission" under this act.

Changes Sec. 3. to require eligible military students or eligible veteran students to meet any additional criteria and admissions requirements set forth by a postsecondary institution and be subject to capped enrollment in academic programs so as to eliminate any constitutional concerns with Board of Regents v. Exon, 199 Neb. 146 (1977).

Amends Sec. 4. to remove the requirement for the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to administer this act. Adds the requirement that each public postsecondary institution to make information about this act available on their website and submit an annual report detailing the usage of this act to the Clerk of the Legislature.

Replaces Sec. 5. with language to ensure this act is carried out in agreement with federal law.

Amends 85-502 to remove the requirement for a veteran to enroll in a course at a public institution of higher learning within three years of being discharged to receive in-state tuition. This would align Nebraska statute with federal law.

Lynne Walz, Chairperson