

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 161

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the impact of natural hair discrimination in Nebraska educational settings and to support all schools in creating equitable policies and practices as such relate to students' racial, ethnic, and cultural identity.

Restrictions on natural hair or hairstyles have historically been rooted in European standards of appearance and can perpetuate racist and hurtful stereotypes. Such policies exacerbate bias in educational settings by limiting an individual's ability to thrive in classroom settings, sports, and other extracurricular activities.

It is vital that students and other individuals have the confidence needed to thrive and succeed. Such confidence is hindered when suspensions and other consequences are given for the way hair naturally grows from a person's head.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of existing dress code, hairstyle, and other related policies in schools across the state;

(2) An examination of model school policies that promote equitable educational environments as such relates to natural hair and protective hairstyles;

(3) Identifying training and resources necessary to support schools in creating policies promoting equitable educational environments, free of natural hair discrimination, and accountability for such policies; and

(4) Examining potential legislative solutions to ban race-based discriminatory policies and practices in schools that penalize students for their natural hair and protective hairstyles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.