

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 182**

Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the school enrollment options available to students, including virtual learning and distance education, and how these options influence public school enrollment decisions.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The enrollment option program, including, but not limited to:

(a) Whether the current statutory limits and exceptions meet the needs of students and families, along with the needs of school districts, or if current statutes create undue hardships for students, families, or school districts;

(b) The benefits and consequences of allowing part-time participation in the enrollment option program and how such enrollment could be reflected in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act;

(c) Whether the current school finance formula accurately accounts for the fiscal impact of the enrollment option program on school districts, incentivizes the recruitment of option students by school districts, or creates a discriminatory effect;

(d) Whether the current program unfairly limits opportunities for students enrolled in an exempt or nonpublic school by restricting any part-time enrollment to the school district in which they reside;

(e) Whether current statutes properly balance the needs of special education students with the combined capacity limitations of the school district and its affiliated educational service unit;

(f) Whether the appeal process for students whose application for option enrollment has been denied provides appropriate protections for students and families;

(g) How the enrollment option program compares to public school choice programs in other states; and

(h) Any other issues related to the enrollment option program that the committee deems necessary; and

(2) Student participation in virtual learning and distance education offered by school districts, including, but not limited to:

(a)(i) Courses school districts offer or intend to offer using virtual learning and distance education during the school year, (ii) the parameters that surround enrollment in such options during a summer session, and (iii) whether there are enough options statewide to meet the needs of students, families, and school districts;

(b) How students enrolled in virtual learning and distance education are accounted for in Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act formula needs and a determination of whether this method is sufficient to timely and accurately reflect the fiscal impact on school districts;

(c) Whether the formula for distance education incentives paid from lottery dollars accurately reflects the net costs associated with providing such services;

(d) Whether there are duplicative components in the school finance formula related to virtual learning and distance education;

(e) Whether a more streamlined mechanism exists for offsetting the net costs associated with virtual learning and distance education;

(f) How public school virtual learning and distance education are accounted for in the school finance funding formulas of other states; and

(g) Any other issues related to virtual learning or distance education that the committee deems necessary.

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.