

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 440

Introduced by Council, 11; Cook, 13.

Read first time January 20, 2009

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Student Diversity Scholarship Program
2 Act; to amend sections 85-9,178 and 85-9,182, Reissue
3 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions
4 relating to the diversity criteria as prescribed; and
5 to repeal the original sections.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 85-9,178, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 85-9,178 (1) The Legislature finds that the State of
4 Nebraska has a compelling interest to provide access to the
5 University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community
6 colleges for students from diverse ~~racial, ethnic, and cultural~~
7 backgrounds who often find that the financial requirements of
8 postsecondary education are a major obstacle. The Legislature
9 further finds that the State of Nebraska has a compelling interest
10 in attaining greater diversity in the ~~racial, ethnic, and cultural~~
11 makeup of the student bodies at the University of Nebraska,
12 the state colleges, and the community colleges because of the
13 educational benefits that a diverse educational environment will
14 produce for all students attending the University of Nebraska, the
15 state colleges, and the community colleges.

16 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature:

17 (a) To appropriate funds to support a student diversity
18 program for the purpose of developing more ~~racially, ethnically,~~
19 ~~and culturally~~ diverse student bodies at the state's public
20 postsecondary educational institutions;

21 (b) That the student diversity scholarship program be
22 designed and implemented so as to achieve a greater ~~racial, ethnic,~~
23 ~~and cultural~~ diversity in student populations in fulfillment of the
24 compelling interest found by the Legislature pursuant to subsection
25 (1) of this section; and

1 (c) That all funds appropriated by the Legislature for
2 student diversity scholarships at the University of Nebraska,
3 the state colleges, and the community colleges shall be used in
4 coordination with private donations for such scholarships and in
5 consultation with the major donors thereof and in coordination with
6 federal grant funds available to students at the University of
7 Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community colleges so as to
8 maximize the level of benefits and accomplish the purposes of the
9 Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act.

10 Sec. 2. Section 85-9,182, Reissue Revised Statutes of
11 Nebraska, is amended to read:

12 85-9,182 Criteria for the award of scholarships under
13 the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act shall be determined
14 in accordance with state and federal law by a committee selected
15 by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board
16 of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and the community
17 college boards of governors. The committee shall include members ~~of~~
18 ~~underrepresented minority~~ from diverse groups and private donors to
19 the endowed scholarship funds. Awards shall be consistent with the
20 intent stated in the act and with the constitutions and laws of the
21 United States and the State of Nebraska.

22 Sec. 3. Original sections 85-9,178 and 85-9,182, Reissue
23 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.