

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 58**

Introduced by Adams, 24.

Read first time January 06, 2011

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend section 85-1412, Revised  
2 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2010; to provide for a  
3 study relating to dual-enrollment courses and career  
4 academies; and to repeal the original section.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 85-1412, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2010, is amended to read:

3           85-1412 The commission shall have the following  
4 additional powers and duties:

5           (1) Conduct surveys and studies as may be necessary to  
6 undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant to  
7 section 85-1403 and request information from governing boards and  
8 appropriate administrators of public institutions and other  
9 governmental agencies for research projects. All public institutions  
10 and governmental agencies receiving state funds shall comply with  
11 reasonable requests for information under this subdivision. Public  
12 institutions may comply with such requests pursuant to section  
13 85-1417;

14           (2) Recommend to the Legislature and the Governor  
15 legislation it deems necessary or appropriate to improve  
16 postsecondary education in Nebraska and any other legislation it  
17 deems appropriate to change the role and mission provisions in  
18 sections 85-917 to 85-966.01;

19           (3) Establish any advisory committees as may be necessary  
20 to undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant to  
21 section 85-1403 or to solicit input from affected parties such as  
22 students, faculty, governing boards, administrators of the public  
23 institutions, administrators of the private nonprofit institutions of  
24 postsecondary education and proprietary institutions in the state,  
25 and community and business leaders regarding the coordination

1 function of the commission;

2 (4) Participate in or designate an employee or employees  
3 to participate in any committee which may be created to prepare a  
4 coordinated plan for the delivery of educational programs and  
5 services in Nebraska through the telecommunications system;

6 (5) Seek a close liaison with the State Board of  
7 Education and the State Department of Education in recognition of the  
8 need for close coordination of activities between elementary and  
9 secondary education and postsecondary education;

10 (6) Administer the Integrated Postsecondary Education  
11 Data System or other information system or systems to provide the  
12 commission with timely, comprehensive, and meaningful information  
13 pertinent to the exercise of its duties. The information system shall  
14 be designed to provide comparable data on each public institution.  
15 The commission shall also administer the uniform information system  
16 prescribed in sections 85-1421 to 85-1427 known as the Nebraska  
17 Educational Data System. Public institutions shall supply the  
18 appropriate data for the information system or systems required by  
19 the commission;

20 (7) Administer the Access College Early Scholarship  
21 Program Act and the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act;

22 (8) Accept and administer loans, grants, and programs  
23 from the federal or state government and from other sources, public  
24 and private, for carrying out any of its functions, including the  
25 administration of privately endowed scholarship programs. Such loans

1 and grants shall not be expended for any other purposes than those  
2 for which the loans and grants were provided. The commission shall  
3 determine eligibility for such loans, grants, and programs, and such  
4 loans and grants shall not be expended unless approved by the  
5 Governor;

6 (9) Consistent with section 85-1620, approve, in a timely  
7 manner, new baccalaureate degree programs to be offered at private  
8 postsecondary career schools as defined in section 85-1603. The  
9 commission may charge a reasonable fee based on its administrative  
10 costs for authorizations pursuant to this subdivision and section  
11 85-1620. The commission shall report such action to the Commissioner  
12 of Education;

13 (10) Pursuant to sections 85-1101 to 85-1104, authorize  
14 out-of-state institutions of higher or postsecondary education to  
15 offer courses or degree programs in this state;

16 (11) Pursuant to sections 85-1105 to 85-1111, approve or  
17 disapprove petitions to establish new private colleges in this state;

18 (12) On or before December 1, 2000, and on or before  
19 December 1 every two years thereafter, submit to the Legislature and  
20 the Governor a report of its objectives and activities and any new  
21 private colleges in Nebraska and the implementation of any  
22 recommendations of the commission for the preceding two calendar  
23 years;

24 (13) Provide staff support for interstate compacts on  
25 postsecondary education;

1           (14) Request inclusion of the commission in any existing  
2 grant review process and information system; ~~and~~

3           (15) Facilitate a study that explores the following  
4 issues related to the Nebraska community college system:

5           (a) The need for changes to the statutory role and  
6 mission of Nebraska community colleges;

7           (b) Changes in the weighting of courses that may be  
8 necessary for reimbursable educational units to properly reflect the  
9 role and mission of Nebraska community colleges and the cost of  
10 providing such courses;

11           (c) Powers, duties, and mission of the Nebraska Community  
12 College Association or its successor and whether membership in such  
13 an association should be required;

14           (d) Consequences for failing to satisfy current community  
15 college association membership requirements contained in section  
16 85-1502; and

17           (e) State coordination of community colleges in the  
18 absence of a community college association or membership therein;  
19 and -

20           (16) In collaboration with the State Department of  
21 Education, public postsecondary educational institutions, and school  
22 districts, conduct a study regarding the need for uniform policies  
23 and practices for dual-enrollment courses and career academies in  
24 Nebraska, including transferability of dual-enrollment courses and  
25 consistency of administration of career academies. The commission

1 shall report the findings of such study and its recommendations,  
2 including recommendations for possible legislation, to the  
3 Legislature on or before December 15, 2011. For purposes of this  
4 subdivision, dual-enrollment course has the same definition as  
5 provided in section 79-1201.01.

6 ~~The commission shall include and facilitate discussion~~  
7 ~~among the state's community colleges in the completion of such study.~~  
8 ~~Each community college shall participate in good faith with the~~  
9 ~~conduct of such study. The commission shall report its findings to~~  
10 ~~the Legislature on or before December 15, 2009.~~

11 Sec. 2. Original section 85-1412, Revised Statutes  
12 Cumulative Supplement, 2010, is repealed.