

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 575

Introduced by Harr, 8.

Read first time January 23, 2013

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to school governing bodies; to require
2 professional development training for public school board
3 and learning community coordinating council members as
4 prescribed; to define terms; to provide powers and duties
5 for the State Department of Education, associations of
6 school boards, school boards, and learning community
7 coordinating councils; and to provide for sanctions as
8 prescribed.
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. For purposes of sections 1 to 5 of this act:

2 (1) Board member means a member of a school board as
3 defined in section 79-101 or a member of a learning community
4 coordinating council as described in section 32-546.01; and

5 (2) Required professional development training includes,
6 but is not limited to, training on the powers and duties of school
7 board members, compliance with public records laws, compliance with
8 education standards, the financial and fiduciary duties of board
9 members, financial planning training, education law, labor law,
10 ethics training, and information on the school district on whose
11 board the board member will serve or the school districts comprising
12 the learning community coordinating council the board member will
13 serve regarding demographics, graduation and dropout rates, truancy,
14 staffing levels, and educational assessment scores.

15 Sec. 2. A member of a learning community coordinating
16 council appointed as provided in subsection (5) of section 32-546.01
17 shall complete required professional development training as provided
18 in section 3 of this act upon election to the school board. A member
19 of a learning community coordinating council elected as provided in
20 subsection (2) of section 32-546.01 shall complete required
21 professional development training upon election to a learning
22 community coordinating council. A member of a learning community
23 coordinating council appointed to fill a vacancy in office as
24 provided in subsection (3) of section 32-546.01 shall complete
25 required professional development training within one hundred eighty

1 days after appointment.

2 Sec. 3. (1) On and after January 1, 2014, all newly
3 elected or appointed board members shall receive no less than twelve
4 hours of required professional development training within one
5 hundred eighty days after their election or appointment. If the one-
6 hundred-eighty-day period extends into a new calendar year, the
7 twelve hours of required professional development training shall
8 apply to the year in which the election is certified and not to the
9 ensuing calendar year. One hour of the twelve hours of required
10 professional development training shall be dedicated to information
11 on the school district on whose board the board member will serve or
12 the school districts comprising the learning community on whose
13 learning community coordinating council the board member will serve
14 regarding demographics, graduation and dropout rates, truancy,
15 staffing levels, and educational assessment scores. One hour of the
16 twelve hours of required professional development training shall be
17 dedicated to the creation and discussion of a board mission statement
18 and strategic plan.

19 (2) On and after January 1, 2014, all board members who
20 have served more than one year or who are reelected or reappointed
21 shall receive not less than eight hours of required professional
22 development training per year. Two of the eight hours of required
23 professional development training shall be devoted to information on
24 the school district on whose board the board member serves or the
25 school districts comprising the learning community on whose learning

1 community coordinating council the board member serves and shall
2 include demographics, graduation and dropout rates, truancy, staffing
3 levels, and educational assessment scores. One hour of the eight
4 hours of required professional development training shall be
5 dedicated to the creation and discussion of a board mission statement
6 and strategic plan.

7 Sec. 4. The State Department of Education shall provide
8 the required professional development training. The department
9 may approve training by other entities which may be credited toward
10 such required professional development training.

11 Sec. 5. The State Department of Education, any
12 association of school boards, and each school board and learning
13 community coordinating council shall keep a list of all board members
14 who have or have not completed the required professional development
15 training. A board member who does not complete the required
16 professional development training within the times required pursuant
17 to section 3 of this act may submit a written petition to the
18 Commissioner of Education requesting a waiver granting an
19 extension of the time period to complete required professional
20 development training. If the commissioner denies the request for a
21 waiver, the petitioner may appeal the decision to the State Board of
22 Education. The commissioner or the state board may not waive the
23 required professional development training. A board member
24 who receives an extension pursuant to this section shall complete the
25 required professional development training within sixty days after

1 the date of the final decision. A waiver shall not be granted for the
2 calendar year prior to the year a member is eligible for reelection
3 or reappointment.

4 Any board member who does not complete all the required
5 professional development training pursuant to sections 1 to 5 of this
6 act is not eligible for reelection or reappointment during the first
7 election cycle immediately following the term for which he or she did
8 not complete the required professional development training, but he
9 or she is eligible during the second and subsequent election cycles
10 following such term.

11 Not later than January of each year, the State Department
12 of Education shall notify the Election Division of the office of the
13 Secretary of State of the name of any school board member who is
14 ineligible for reelection as provided in this section.