

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 696

Introduced by Blood, 3.

Read first time January 05, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the State Department of Education; and to declare an
- 3 emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) Since the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency,
3 Nebraska public elementary and secondary schools have had difficulty
4 filling open and necessary job positions. Such job positions include
5 teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, food service handlers, librarians,
6 and other support staff; and

7 (b) It is necessary to provide retention payments to public
8 elementary and secondary school employees in order to decrease the number
9 of open job positions created by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

10 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$XXXX from Federal Funds for
11 FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education for the purposes of school
12 employee retention. The Federal Funds appropriated in this section are
13 from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal
14 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American
15 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

16 (3)(a) The State Department of Education shall administer a program
17 to provide grants to all school districts for purposes of school employee
18 retention.

19 (b) The amount of the grant provided to each school district shall
20 be a proportionate share of the total amount appropriated under
21 subsection (2) of this section. Each school district's share shall be
22 based on the percentage of the Nebraska population residing in such
23 school district according to the most recent federal decennial census or
24 the most recent revised certified count by the United States Bureau of
25 the Census.

26 (c) A school district receiving such grant shall divide the grant
27 evenly among all eligible school employees at the time of receiving the
28 grant.

29 (d) The State Department of Education shall administer and
30 coordinate the distribution of grants pursuant to this section in
31 compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

1 (e) For purposes of this section, eligible school employee means an
2 individual employed by a school. Eligible school employee does not
3 include any school administrator.

4 Sec. 2. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
5 passed and approved according to law.