

AMENDMENTS TO LB1284

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM3061)

Introduced by Walz, 15.

1 1. Strike amendment 1 and insert the following new amendment:

2 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
3 sections:

4 Section 1. (1) Beginning in school year 2025-26 and subject to  
5 available appropriations, the State Department of Education shall develop  
6 a pilot program to make menstrual products, including both pads and  
7 tampons, available to each school district. Priority shall be given to  
8 each school district:

9 (a) That classifies as a needs improvement school under the  
10 accountability system developed by the State Board of Education pursuant  
11 to section 79-760.06; or

12 (b) In which forty percent of the students are poverty students as  
13 defined in section 79-1003.

14 (2) For school year 2025-26, a school district that receives free  
15 menstrual products pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall  
16 ensure that free menstrual products, including both pads and tampons, are  
17 available in school bathrooms.

18 (3) A school board or board of education may adopt a policy relating  
19 to the requirements of this section.

20 (4) The State Department of Education shall submit a report  
21 electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Education  
22 Committee of the Legislature relating to the pilot program for free  
23 menstrual products pursuant to this section on or before December 1,  
24 2026.

25 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate an amount not  
26 to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the Education Future

1 Fund for fiscal year 2025-26 to the State Department of Education to  
2 carry out this section.

3 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and  
4 regulations to carry out this section.

5 Sec. 2. (1) For purposes of this section:

6 (a) Department means the State Department of Education; and

7 (b) Eligible applicant means a privately owned business based in  
8 Nebraska that is in the process of researching artificial-intelligence-  
9 based writing assistance that can be used to assist individuals with  
10 dyslexia.

11 (2) The Dyslexia Research Grant Program is created and shall be  
12 administered by the department.

13 (3)(a) An eligible applicant may apply to the department for a grant  
14 under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program. The department shall prescribe  
15 the application form that is to be completed when applying for a grant  
16 under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program. The grant shall be conditioned  
17 on compliance with this section.

18 (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c) of this subsection, the  
19 department may award a grant to any eligible applicant.

20 (c) The total amount of all grants awarded under the Dyslexia  
21 Research Grant Program shall not be more than five hundred thousand  
22 dollars. It is the intent of the Legislature that grants awarded pursuant  
23 to this section shall be funded from the Education Future Fund.

24 (4) All grant money received under the Dyslexia Research Grant  
25 Program shall be used only for the purpose of researching the use of  
26 artificial-intelligence-based writing assistance by individuals with  
27 dyslexia. Such research shall be focused on using aggregate writing  
28 analytics to identify writing errors and patterns that can be used by  
29 teachers to develop a comprehensive literacy plan for students with  
30 dyslexia.

31 (5)(a) If any grant money received under the Dyslexia Research Grant

1 Program is used in violation of subsection (4) of this section, the  
2 department shall notify the Attorney General of such violation.

3 (b) The Attorney General shall bring a civil action in any court of  
4 competent jurisdiction to recoup any money spent in violation of  
5 subsection (4) of this section. Any money collected in such civil action  
6 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Education  
7 Future Fund.

8 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and  
9 regulations to carry out this section.

10 Sec. 3. Section 38-3113, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
11 amended to read:

12 38-3113 Nothing in the Psychology Practice Act shall be construed to  
13 prevent:

14 (1) The teaching of psychology, the conduct of psychological  
15 research, or the provision of psychological services or consultation to  
16 organizations or institutions if such teaching, research, or service does  
17 not involve the delivery or supervision of direct psychological services  
18 to individuals or groups of individuals who are themselves, rather than a  
19 third party, the intended beneficiaries of such services, without regard  
20 to the source or extent of payment for services rendered. Nothing in the  
21 act shall prevent the provision of expert testimony by psychologists who  
22 are otherwise exempted by the act. Persons holding a doctoral degree in  
23 psychology from an institution of higher education may use the title  
24 psychologist in conjunction with the activities permitted by this  
25 subdivision;

26 (2) Members of other recognized professions that are licensed,  
27 certified, or regulated under the laws of this state from rendering  
28 services consistent with their professional training and code of ethics  
29 and within the scope of practice as set out in the statutes regulating  
30 their professional practice if they do not represent themselves to be  
31 psychologists;

1 (3) Duly recognized members of the clergy from functioning in their  
2 ministerial capacity if they do not represent themselves to be  
3 psychologists or their services as psychological;

4 (4) Persons who are certified as school psychologists by the State  
5 Board of Education from using the title school psychologist and  
6 practicing psychology as defined in the Psychology Practice Act if (a)  
7 such practice is restricted to regular employment within a setting under  
8 the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education. Such individuals shall  
9 be employees of the educational setting and not independent contractors  
10 providing psychological services to educational settings, or (b)  
11 employed through a service agency with special education programs and  
12 rates approved by the State Department of Education; or

13 (5) Any of the following persons from engaging in activities defined  
14 as the practice of psychology if they do not represent themselves by the  
15 title psychologist, if they do not use terms other than psychological  
16 trainee, psychological intern, psychological resident, or psychological  
17 assistant to refer to themselves, and if they perform their activities  
18 under the supervision and responsibility of a psychologist in accordance  
19 with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated under the  
20 Psychology Practice Act:

21 (a) A matriculated graduate student in psychology whose activities  
22 constitute a part of the course of study for a graduate degree in  
23 psychology at an institution of higher education;

24 (b) An individual pursuing postdoctoral training or experience in  
25 psychology, including persons seeking to fulfill the requirements for  
26 licensure under the act; or

27 (c) An individual with a master's degree in clinical, counseling, or  
28 educational psychology or an educational specialist degree in school  
29 psychology who administers and scores and may develop interpretations of  
30 psychological testing under the supervision of a psychologist. Such  
31 individuals shall be deemed to be conducting their duties as an extension

1 of the legal and professional authority of the supervising psychologist  
2 and shall not independently provide interpretive information or treatment  
3 recommendations to clients or other health care professionals prior to  
4 obtaining appropriate supervision. The department, with the  
5 recommendation of the board, may adopt and promulgate rules and  
6 regulations governing the conduct and supervision of persons referred to  
7 in this subdivision, including the number of such persons that may be  
8 supervised by a licensed psychologist. Persons who have carried out the  
9 duties described in this subdivision as part of their employment in  
10 institutions accredited by the Department of Health and Human Services,  
11 the State Department of Education, or the Department of Correctional  
12 Services for a period of two years prior to September 1, 1994, may use  
13 the title psychologist associate in the context of their employment in  
14 such settings. Use of the title shall be restricted to duties described  
15 in this subdivision, and the title shall be used in its entirety. Partial  
16 or abbreviated use of the title and use of the title beyond what is  
17 specifically authorized in this subdivision shall constitute the  
18 unlicensed practice of psychology.

19 Sec. 4. Section 79-8,114, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
20 amended to read:

21 79-8,114 (1) A teacher may apply to the department for a grant. The  
22 department shall not prioritize a grant based upon the school where the  
23 applicant teaches.

24 (2) A teacher is eligible to apply for:

25 (a) A retention one grant of two thousand five hundred dollars if  
26 the teacher has signed a contract to complete such teacher's second  
27 complete school year of full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska  
28 school in school year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27;

29 (b) A retention two grant of two thousand five hundred dollars if  
30 the teacher has signed a contract to complete such teacher's fourth  
31 complete school year of full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska

1 school in school year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27;

2 (c) A retention three grant of two thousand five hundred dollars if  
3 the teacher has signed a contract to complete such teacher's sixth  
4 complete school year of full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska  
5 school in school year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27; and

6 (d)(i) A high-need retention grant of five thousand dollars if on or  
7 after June 2, 2023, a teacher:

8 (A) Obtains an endorsement in special education, mathematics,  
9 science, technology, or dual credit; and

10 (B)(I) For an application submitted prior to the operative date of  
11 this section, signs ~~(B) Signs~~ a contract to complete a school year of  
12 full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska school in school year  
13 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27; or -

14 (II) For an application submitted on or after the operative date of  
15 this section, signs a contract to complete a school year of full-time  
16 employment as a teacher to teach in such endorsement area at a Nebraska  
17 school in school year 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27.

18 (ii) A teacher shall only be eligible to receive one high-need  
19 retention grant.

20 Sec. 5. Section 79-8,146, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
21 2022, is amended to read:

22 79-8,146 Sections 79-8,146 to 79-8,153 and section 9 of this act  
23 shall be known and may be cited as the Teach in Nebraska Today Act.

24 Sec. 6. Section 79-8,147, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
25 2022, is amended to read:

26 79-8,147 For purposes of the Teach in Nebraska Today Act:

27 (1) Default has the same meaning as in 20 U.S.C. 1085, as such  
28 section existed on January 1, 2022;

29 (2) Department means the State Department of Education;

30 (3) Grant means a grant for beginning or continuing service as a  
31 classroom teacher under the Teach in Nebraska Today Act;

1           ~~(4)~~ ~~(3)~~ Program means the Teach in Nebraska Today Program created in  
2 section 79-8,148; and

3           ~~(5)~~ ~~(4)~~ Teaching full-time means (a) teaching an average of at least  
4 four hours per contract day performing instructional duties as a full-  
5 time employee of an approved or accredited public, private,  
6 denominational, or parochial school in this state or (b) teaching an  
7 average of at least four hours per contract day performing dual-credit  
8 instructional duties for students of approved or accredited public,  
9 private, denominational, or parochial schools in this state while  
10 employed full-time at an accredited public or private nonprofit college  
11 or university in this state.

12           Sec. 7. Section 79-8,148, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
13 2022, is amended to read:

14           79-8,148 The Teach in Nebraska Today Program is created. The  
15 department shall administer the program. The purpose of the program is to  
16 attract individuals to the teaching profession who have expressed an  
17 interest in teaching and to support the employment of those individuals  
18 as classroom teachers by providing student loan repayment assistance or  
19 grants for service as a classroom teacher in this state.

20           Sec. 8. Section 79-8,149, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
21 2022, is amended to read:

22           79-8,149 (1) Prior to the operative date of this section, student  
23 ~~Student~~ loan repayment assistance under the program shall be available to  
24 an individual who applies for the assistance and who:

25           (a) Is a resident of the State of Nebraska; and

26           (b) Is teaching full-time or has a contract to teach full-time at  
27 the time of application for the program.

28           (2) The amount of repayment assistance awarded to an eligible  
29 applicant pursuant to this section shall be limited to five thousand  
30 dollars per year. An eligible applicant may be awarded repayment  
31 assistance for applications approved prior to the operative date of this

1 ~~section for up to five years. The five years of awards are not required~~  
2 ~~to be consecutive but shall not extend beyond eight years in total.~~

3 (3) If the funds available for repayment assistance in any year are  
4 insufficient to provide assistance to all eligible applicants described  
5 in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall establish  
6 priorities for awarding repayment assistance with renewal applications  
7 given priority over initial applications. For initial applications,  
8 priority shall be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need.

9 (4) An eligible applicant may receive repayment assistance under the  
10 program for the repayment of a student loan received through any lender  
11 which was incurred in the applicant's own name for his or her own  
12 educational expenses at any accredited public or private nonprofit  
13 college or university in this state or any other state. If the loan is  
14 not a state or federal guaranteed student loan, the note or other writing  
15 governing the terms of the loan must require the loan proceeds to be used  
16 for expenses incurred by the applicant to attend an accredited public or  
17 private nonprofit college or university in this state or any other state.

18 (5) No additional applications for repayment assistance shall be  
19 approved after the operative date of this section.

20 Sec. 9. (1) Beginning on the operative date of this section, a  
21 grant under the program shall be available to an individual who applies  
22 for the grant and who:

23 (a) Is a resident of the State of Nebraska;

24 (b) Is teaching full-time or has a contract to teach full-time at  
25 the time of the application for the program;

26 (c) Has taught in Nebraska five years or less at the time of the  
27 application or renewal; and

28 (d) Has an individual income that is less than fifty-five thousand  
29 dollars per year.

30 (2) The amount of a grant awarded to an eligible applicant pursuant  
31 to this section shall be limited to five thousand dollars per year. An



1 eligible applicant may be awarded a grant for up to five years.

2 (3) If the funds available for grants in any year are insufficient  
3 to provide grants to all eligible applicants described in subsection (1)  
4 of this section, the department shall establish priorities to award  
5 grants with renewal applications given priority over initial  
6 applications. For initial applications, priority shall be given to  
7 applicants who demonstrate financial need.

8 Sec. 10. Section 79-8,150, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
9 2022, is amended to read:

10 79-8,150 (1) Applications for student loan repayment assistance  
11 must be submitted no later than June 10, 2023, and no later than June 10  
12 of each year thereafter, on a form developed by the department. The  
13 department shall determine whether to approve or deny each application  
14 and shall notify each applicant of such determination no later than  
15 September 10, 2023, and no later than September 10 of each year  
16 thereafter. Repayment assistance awarded under the program shall be paid,  
17 in whole or in part as provided in section 79-8,151, no later than  
18 November 10, 2023, and no later than November 10 of each year thereafter  
19 for an application approved prior to the operative date of this section.  
20 No new applications for loan repayment assistance shall be approved after  
21 the operative date of this section.

22 (2) Applications for a grant must be submitted no later than July  
23 10, 2024, and no later than July 10 of each year thereafter, on a form  
24 and in a manner prescribed by the department. The department shall  
25 determine whether to approve or deny each application and shall notify  
26 each applicant of such determination no later than October 10, 2024, and  
27 no later than October 10 of each year thereafter. Grants awarded under  
28 the program shall be paid directly to the applicant no later than  
29 December 10, 2024, and no later than December 10 of each year thereafter.

30 Sec. 11. Section 79-8,151, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
31 2022, is amended to read:

1           79-8,151 (1) For applications approved prior to the operative date  
2 of this section, student ~~Student~~ loan repayment assistance awarded under  
3 the program may be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to  
4 interest that accrues. The repayment assistance shall be paid in one of  
5 the following three ways as directed by the applicant on his or her  
6 application:

7           (a) Directly to the lender or loan servicer that holds the  
8 outstanding balance of the student loan in one lump-sum payment;

9           (b) Directly to the lender or loan servicer that holds the  
10 outstanding balance of the student loan in monthly payments. Such monthly  
11 payments shall be made:

12           (i) In twelve equal payments; or

13           (ii) If requested by the applicant, in smaller amounts over a longer  
14 period of time, not to exceed twenty-four months. In such case, payments  
15 shall be equal for the first twelve months or until such time as the  
16 applicant's payment amount is recalculated by the lender or loan servicer  
17 and then, if adjusted, shall be equal for the next twelve-month period.  
18 Any unpaid funds at the end of twenty-four months may be requested to be  
19 paid in a lump-sum payment to the lender or loan servicer or shall be  
20 considered forfeited by the applicant. Applicants who are awarded  
21 repayment assistance in more than one year may have their awards divided  
22 across no more than one hundred twenty monthly payments under the  
23 program; or

24           (c) Directly to the applicant for the purpose of making the  
25 applicant's student loan payments. This subdivision shall only be  
26 available if the applicant is not in default on any student loan at the  
27 time of application. Any individual receiving repayment assistance under  
28 this subdivision must provide documentation that the full award was used  
29 for student loan payments when (i) applying for repayment assistance  
30 under the program in subsequent years and (ii) claiming an adjustment to  
31 federal adjusted gross income pursuant to section 77-2716. Such

1 documentation shall be provided using a form prescribed by the  
2 department.

3 (2) The department may contract with a third-party vendor to  
4 administer the repayment assistance provided pursuant to the program.

5 Sec. 12. Section 79-8,152, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
6 2022, is amended to read:

7 79-8,152 The total amount of student loan repayment assistance  
8 awarded pursuant to the program shall not exceed five million dollars ~~in~~  
9 any fiscal year. The total amount of grants awarded pursuant to the  
10 program shall not exceed ten million dollars in any fiscal year.

11 Sec. 13. Section 79-1021, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
12 amended to read:

13 79-1021 (1) The Education Future Fund is created. The fund shall be  
14 administered by the department and shall consist of money transferred to  
15 the fund by the Legislature. Transfers may be made from the Education  
16 Future Fund to the Computer Science and Technology Education Fund at the  
17 direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Education Future Fund fund  
18 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment  
19 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska  
20 State Funds Investment Act.

21 (2) The fund shall be used only for the following purposes, in order  
22 of priority:

23 (a) To fully fund equalization aid under the Tax Equity and  
24 Educational Opportunities Support Act;

25 (b) To fund reimbursements related to special education under  
26 section 79-1142;

27 (c) To fund foundation aid under the Tax Equity and Educational  
28 Opportunities Support Act;

29 (d) To increase funding for school districts in a way that results  
30 in direct property tax relief, which means a dollar-for-dollar  
31 replacement of property taxes by a state funding source;

1 (e) To provide funding for a grant program created by the  
2 Legislature to address teacher turnover rates and keep existing teachers  
3 in classrooms;

4 (f) To provide funding to increase career and technical educational  
5 classroom opportunities for students, including, but not limited to,  
6 computer science education. Such funding must provide students with the  
7 academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to  
8 succeed in future careers;

9 (g) To provide funding for a grant program created by the  
10 Legislature to provide students the opportunity to have a mentor who will  
11 continuously engage with the student directly to aid in the student's  
12 professional growth and give ongoing support and encouragement to the  
13 student;

14 (h) To provide funding for extraordinary increases in special  
15 education expenditures to allow school districts with large, unexpected  
16 special education expenditures to more easily meet the needs of all  
17 students; ~~and~~

18 (i) To provide funding to help recruit teachers throughout the state  
19 by utilizing apprenticeships through a teacher apprenticeship program and  
20 an alternative certification process; ~~and~~

21 (j) To provide funding to develop and implement a professional  
22 learning system to help provide sustained professional learning and  
23 training regarding evidence-based reading instruction and for a grant  
24 program relating to dyslexia research; and

25 (k) To provide funding for a pilot project administered by the State  
26 Department of Education to provide menstrual products to school  
27 districts.

28 (3)(a) The State Treasurer shall transfer one billion dollars from  
29 the General Fund to the Education Future Fund in fiscal year 2023-24, on  
30 such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget administrator of  
31 the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

1 (b) The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty million  
2 dollars from the General Fund to the Education Future Fund in fiscal year  
3 2024-25, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget  
4 administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative  
5 Services.

6 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that two hundred fifty  
7 million dollars be transferred from the General Fund to the Education  
8 Future Fund in fiscal year 2025-26 and each fiscal year thereafter.

9 Sec. 14. Section 79-2607, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
10 2022, is amended to read:

11 79-2607 (1) For purposes of this section:

12 (a) Evidence-based reading instruction means instruction in reading  
13 that is in alignment with scientifically based reading research and does  
14 not include the three-cueing system model of reading instruction; and

15 (b) Three-cueing system model of reading instruction is an approach  
16 to foundational skills instruction that involves the use of three  
17 different types of instructional cues which include semantic, syntactic,  
18 and graphophonic.

19 (2)(a) The State Department of Education shall develop and implement  
20 a professional learning system to help provide sustained professional  
21 learning and training regarding evidence-based reading instruction for  
22 teachers who teach children from four years of age through third grade at  
23 an approved or accredited school and teachers employed by an early  
24 childhood education program approved by the State Board of Education. The  
25 professional learning system shall include information and tips for  
26 teachers related to helping children and families work with local family  
27 literacy centers to strengthen home and family literacy programs and  
28 better instruct children in reading.

29 (b) Approved or accredited elementary schools and early childhood  
30 education programs approved by the State Board of Education shall ensure  
31 that teachers who teach children from four years of age through third

1 grade are aware of the professional learning system and are adequately  
2 trained regarding evidence-based reading instruction to effectively  
3 instruct students in reading.

4 (3) The State Department of Education shall work with educational  
5 service units to provide regional coaches to approved or accredited  
6 elementary schools to provide assistance and job-embedded training  
7 relating to evidence-based reading instruction to teachers who teach  
8 students in kindergarten through third grade.

9 (4) On or before September 30 of each year, the Commissioner of  
10 Education shall file a report electronically with the Clerk of the  
11 Legislature relating to the status and use of the professional learning  
12 system implemented pursuant to this section.

13 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two million  
14 dollars from the Education Future Fund for each fiscal year beginning  
15 with fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2026-27 to the State  
16 Department of Education to provide regional coaches and job-embedded  
17 training relating to evidence-based reading instruction pursuant to  
18 subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

19 (6) ~~(1)~~ The State Department of Education may provide technical  
20 assistance as needed to assist school boards in carrying out the Nebraska  
21 Reading Improvement Act.

22 (7) ~~(2)~~ The department may adopt and promulgate rules and  
23 regulations to carry out the act.

24 Sec. 15. Section 79-3301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
25 2022, is amended to read:

26 79-3301 Sections 79-3301 to 79-3305 and sections 16 and 17 of this  
27 act shall be known and may be cited as the Computer Science and  
28 Technology Education Act.

29 Sec. 16. (1) The State Department of Education shall establish a  
30 statewide computer science education expansion program to recruit, train,  
31 and support teachers in computer science and technology education. Such

1 program shall include:

2 (a) Training for teachers seeking supplemental computer science  
3 certification;

4 (b) Training designed to support the integration of computer science  
5 and technology education into the instructional programs of elementary,  
6 middle, and high schools;

7 (c) Support for schools and teachers in the development of computer  
8 science instructional plans that are consistent with the academic content  
9 standards for computer science and technology education adopted by the  
10 State Board of Education; and

11 (d) Incentive and stipend payments for teachers who meet training,  
12 certification, and teaching requirements as established by the State  
13 Board of Education.

14 (2) The State Department of Education shall employ or contract with  
15 computer science specialists to develop and deliver computer science  
16 educator training. Such training shall be provided in a manner so that  
17 every teacher in this state has reasonable access to the training.

18 (3) The State Department of Education shall annually submit a report  
19 electronically to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature relating  
20 to the statewide computer science education expansion program. Such  
21 report shall include:

22 (a) The number of training opportunities held and the format of such  
23 training;

24 (b) The number of teachers who received training;

25 (c) To the extent such information is available, the number of  
26 teachers that became certified or received an endorsement in computer  
27 science and technology education or began teaching a class in computer  
28 science and technology education within three calendar months following  
29 completion of training provided pursuant to this section; and

30 (d) The costs associated with such training for the fiscal year  
31 covered by the report.

1           (4) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and  
2 regulations to carry out this section.

3           Sec. 17. (1) The Computer Science and Technology Education Fund is  
4 created. The fund shall be administered by the State Department of  
5 Education and consist of money transferred by the Legislature, federal  
6 funds, and gifts, grants, bequests, or other contributions or donations  
7 from public or private entities that have been accepted by the State  
8 Board of Education. The fund shall be used to provide computer science  
9 and technology training, support, and incentive and stipend payments  
10 pursuant to section 16 of this act. Any money in the fund available for  
11 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to  
12 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds  
13 Investment Act. Any interest earned by the fund shall accrue to the fund.

14           (2)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer one million  
15 dollars for fiscal year 2024-25 and one million dollars for fiscal year  
16 2025-26 from the Education Future Fund to the Computer Science and  
17 Technology Education Fund to provide computer science and technology  
18 education training, support, and incentive and stipend payments pursuant  
19 to section 16 of this act.

20           (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer an additional  
21 five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2024-25 and each fiscal  
22 year thereafter from the Education Future Fund to the Computer Science  
23 and Technology Education Fund contingent upon the receipt of matching  
24 private funds of such amount. The State Department of Education shall  
25 provide written notification to the State Treasurer relating to the  
26 receipt of private funds that would trigger a state match.

27           Sec. 18. Section 85-3004, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
28 2022, is amended to read:

29           85-3004 (1)(a) The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska  
30 shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship to any eligible university  
31 student who is enrolled in an eligible program of study in an amount not



1 to exceed:

2 (i) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who  
3 is a transfer student; or

4 (ii) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section:

5 (A) Twenty-five thousand dollars per year for any scholarship  
6 recipient who achieved a composite score on a standard college admission  
7 test equivalent to a score of at least twenty-eight out of a maximum  
8 score of thirty-six; or

9 (B) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who  
10 achieved a composite score on a standard college admission test  
11 equivalent to a score of at least twenty and less than twenty-eight out  
12 of a maximum score of thirty-six.

13 (b) The Board of Regents shall allocate funds appropriated to the  
14 board under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act between the university  
15 campuses, determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the  
16 university, receive and process applications for awards to individual  
17 students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship recipients during  
18 the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include (i) being a first-  
19 time freshman who achieved a composite score on a standard college  
20 admission test equivalent to a score of at least twenty out of a maximum  
21 score of thirty-six or a transfer student and (ii) enrollment in an  
22 eligible program of study.

23 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study  
24 means:

25 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study offered by the  
26 University of Nebraska in mathematics, engineering, health care, and  
27 computer information systems; ~~and~~

28 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study  
29 designated by the Department of Economic Development, in collaboration  
30 with the Board of Regents, based on periodic reviews of workforce needs  
31 in the state; and -

1           (iii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study in  
2           special education.

3           (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate  
4           campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,  
5           clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to  
6           completion of the student's eligible program of study.

7           (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by a scholarship  
8           recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and  
9           board.

10          (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be  
11          automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled  
12          in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such  
13          scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a  
14          scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible  
15          program of study.

16          (5) The Board of Regents shall collect information on each  
17          university scholarship recipient and shall report electronically to the  
18          Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1 of each  
19          year the following information for each eligible program of study at the  
20          university in the current or prior academic year:

21           (a) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the  
22           immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled  
23           in the program as of September 30 for the current academic year;

24           (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of  
25           September 30 for the current academic year and the total number of such  
26           scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in the program for such  
27           academic year;

28           (c) The total number of students retained in the program from the  
29           immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and a  
30           comparison of the retention rates between scholarship recipients and  
31           nonscholarship students;

1 (d) The number of students participating in an internship, an  
2 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related  
3 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of  
4 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship  
5 students;

6 (e) The total number of graduates for the immediately prior academic  
7 year, the number of scholarship recipient graduates for such academic  
8 year, and a comparison of the graduation rates for scholarship recipients  
9 and nonscholarship students; and

10 (f) The number of graduates from the immediately prior academic year  
11 who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within four  
12 months after graduation and the average starting salary for such  
13 graduates.

14 Sec. 19. Section 85-3103, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
15 amended to read:

16 85-3103 The Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program is created.  
17 For purposes of the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program:

18 (1) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
19 Education;

20 (2) Eligible institution means a not-for-profit college or  
21 university which (a) is located in Nebraska, (b) is accredited by an  
22 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of  
23 Education as determined to be acceptable by the State Board of Education,  
24 (c) has a teacher education program, and (d) if a privately funded  
25 college or university, has not opted out of the program pursuant to rules  
26 and regulations;

27 (3) Eligible student means an individual who (a) is a full-time  
28 student, (b) is enrolled in an eligible institution in an undergraduate  
29 or a graduate teacher education program working toward his or her initial  
30 certificate to teach in Nebraska, (c) if enrolled at a state-funded  
31 eligible institution, is a resident student as described in section

1 85-502 or, if enrolled in a privately funded eligible institution, would  
2 be deemed a resident student if enrolled in a state-funded eligible  
3 institution, and (d) is a student majoring in a shortage area;

4 (4) Full-time student means, in the aggregate, the equivalent of a  
5 student who in a twelve-month period is enrolled in twenty-four semester  
6 credit hours for undergraduate students or eighteen semester credit hours  
7 for graduate students of classroom, laboratory, clinical, practicum, or  
8 independent study course work;

9 (5) Majoring in a shortage area means pursuing a degree which will  
10 allow an individual to be properly endorsed to teach in a shortage area;

11 (6) Shortage area means a secular field of teaching for which there  
12 is a shortage, as determined by the State Department of Education, of  
13 properly endorsed teachers at the time the borrower first receives funds  
14 pursuant to the program; ~~and~~

15 (7) Student-teaching semester means a semester of full-time  
16 enrollment for clinical practice which provides initial preparation for a  
17 student enrolled in an eligible institution and pursuing a certificate to  
18 teach that includes a culminating supervised experience to demonstrate  
19 competence in the professional teaching role for which such student is  
20 applying; and

21 (8) ~~(7)~~ Teacher education program means a program of study approved  
22 by the State Board of Education pursuant to subdivision (5)(g) of section  
23 79-318.

24 Sec. 20. Section 85-3105, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
25 amended to read:

26 85-3105 (1) The commission shall administer the Attracting  
27 Excellence to Teaching Program either directly or by contracting with  
28 public or private entities.

29 (2) To be eligible for the program, an eligible student shall:

30 (a) Graduate in the top quarter of his or her high school class or  
31 have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a four-point

1 scale in an eligible institution;

2 (b) Agree to complete a teacher education program at an eligible  
3 institution and to complete the major on which the applicant's  
4 eligibility is based; and

5 (c) Commit to teach in an accredited or approved public or private  
6 school in Nebraska upon (i) successful completion of the teacher  
7 education program for which the applicant is applying to the Attracting  
8 Excellence to Teaching Program and (ii) becoming certified pursuant to  
9 sections 79-806 to 79-815.

10 (3) An eligible student ~~Eligible students~~ may apply on an annual  
11 basis for a loan ~~loans~~ in an amount of not more than three thousand  
12 dollars per year, except that an eligible student who is enrolling for a  
13 student-teaching semester may apply for an additional loan of up to three  
14 thousand dollars for the student-teaching semester and receive up to a  
15 total of six thousand dollars for the year. Loans awarded to individual  
16 students shall not exceed a cumulative period exceeding five consecutive  
17 years. Loans shall only be awarded through an eligible institution. Loans  
18 shall be funded pursuant to section 85-3112.

19 Sec. 21. Section 85-3112, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
20 amended to read:

21 85-3112 (1) The Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund is created. The  
22 fund shall consist of transfers by the Legislature, transfers pursuant to  
23 section 79-3501, and loan repayments, penalties, and interest payments  
24 received in the course of administering the Attracting Excellence to  
25 Teaching Program and the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program.

26 (2)(a) For all fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2024, the  
27 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to two hundred fifty  
28 thousand dollars of the funds transferred pursuant to section 79-3501 for  
29 grants to teachers pursuant to the Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit  
30 Education Grant Program.

31 (b) For all fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2024, the

1 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to five hundred thousand  
2 dollars of the funds transferred pursuant to section 79-3501 exclusively  
3 for loans to any eligible student who is enrolling in a student-teaching  
4 semester during the award year pursuant to the Attracting Excellence to  
5 Teaching Program. The funds shall be distributed to all eligible  
6 institutions according to the distribution formula as determined by rule  
7 and regulation. The eligible institutions shall act as agents of the  
8 commission in the distribution of the funds to any eligible student for a  
9 student-teaching semester for grants and loans to students enrolled in a  
10 teacher education program for student-teaching semesters.

11 (c) Of the funds remaining in the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund  
12 after the distributions pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this  
13 subsection, for all fiscal years, the commission shall allocate on an  
14 annual basis up to four hundred thousand dollars in the aggregate of the  
15 funds to be distributed for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program  
16 to all eligible institutions according to the distribution formula as  
17 determined by rule and regulation. The eligible institutions shall act as  
18 agents of the commission in the distribution of the funds for the  
19 Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program to eligible students. The  
20 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to eight hundred thousand  
21 dollars of the remaining available funds to be distributed to eligible  
22 students for the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program. Funding  
23 amounts granted in excess of one million two hundred thousand dollars  
24 shall be evenly divided for distribution between the two programs.

25 (3) Any money in the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund available for  
26 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to  
27 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds  
28 Investment Act.

29 Sec. 22. Sections 19, 20, 21, and 23 of this act become operative  
30 on July 1, 2024. Sections 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 24 of this  
31 act become operative three calendar months after the adjournment of this

1 legislative session. The other sections of this act become operative on  
2 their effective date.

3       Sec. 23. Original sections 85-3103, 85-3105, and 85-3112, Revised  
4 Statutes Supplement, 2023, are repealed.

5       Sec. 24. Original section 38-3113, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
6 Nebraska, sections 79-2607, 79-3301, and 85-3004, Revised Statutes  
7 Cumulative Supplement, 2022, and section 79-1021, Revised Statutes  
8 Supplement, 2023, are repealed.

9       Sec. 25. Original sections 79-8,146, 79-8,147, 79-8,148, 79-8,149,  
10 79-8,150, 79-8,151, and 79-8,152, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
11 2022, and section 79-8,114, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, are  
12 repealed.

13       Sec. 26. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
14 passed and approved according to law.