

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB455**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 21, 2023  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Wayne  
**One Liner:** Require the State Department of Education to create a grant program

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Conrad, Briese, Linehan, Murman, Sanders, Walz, Wayne  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Justin Wayne  
Terri D. Sanders  
Heather Gill  
Dennis DeRossett  
Korby Gilbertson

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Omaha Star Newspaper  
Nebraska Press Association  
Nebraska Press Association  
Media of Nebraska, Inc.

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 455 would establish a grant program to provide and distribute a monthly, nondigital publication to schools and home to facilitate development in reading ability and also to improve life-long learning skills.

**Section 1**

The Department of Education shall develop a grant program to facilitate development of student's reading skills.

Such grants shall be awarded to any statewide organization who represents a majority of Nebraska newspapers and has proof of ability to provide a monthly nondigital publication to schools and homes.

Grants shall be used to create and distribute such publication.

The purpose of the publication is to positively impact K-12 reading scores and literacy rate and also to improve lifelong learning skills.

The Legislature shall appropriate one million one hundred seventy thousand dollars form the General Fund for fiscal year

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2023-24 and shall appropriate one million one hundred seventy thousand dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2024-25 to the State Department of Education to administer such grants.

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Dave Murman, Chairperson