

NASB LEGISLATIVE NOTES

TRACKING THE 2023 LEGISLATURE FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



1,960,000 Nebraskans 324,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

108th Legislature, 1st Session - May 1, 2023 - Day 70 of 90 is tomorrow, May 2nd

YOUR 2023-24 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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SEN. TOM BRIESE
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SEN. DAVE MURMAN
SEN. BRAD VON GILLERN

LAWMAKING IN NEBRASKA

INTRODUCTION ... COMMITTEE ...
GENERAL FILE ... SELECT FILE ...
FINAL READING ... GOVERNOR

SHARE YOUR STORY

KNOW YOUR DISTRICT'S DATA

UNDERSTAND THE DATA THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUR NASB LEGISLATIVE TEAM
COLBY COASH, JOHN SPATZ,
MATT BELKA & LINDSEY WOOTON

CHRISTMAS TREES, OH CHRISTMAS TREES ...

Christmas in May??? With less than 20 days left in the session, Senators have been putting together their Christmas Trees, Committee Priority Bills with other bills (ornaments) hung on them.

It's a common practice and the way the legislature can pass several bills at once. NASB now knows the makeup of the Education Committee's "Christmas Tree" and it has 17 ornaments.

The Committee is attempting to address several issues through this committee package including: Educational workforce (385, 603, 724, 762), STEM education (520, 787), Special Education (153, 414), Home school student/extracurricular activities (372), Option enrollment (414), School Safety (516), Student Discipline (632), Textbook loan program (647), Allocation of lottery dollars (705), and several bills included which were brought on behalf of higher education.

As you can see, there are both bills NASB supports and opposes within this package. We continue to work on improving those bills we oppose and supporting others.

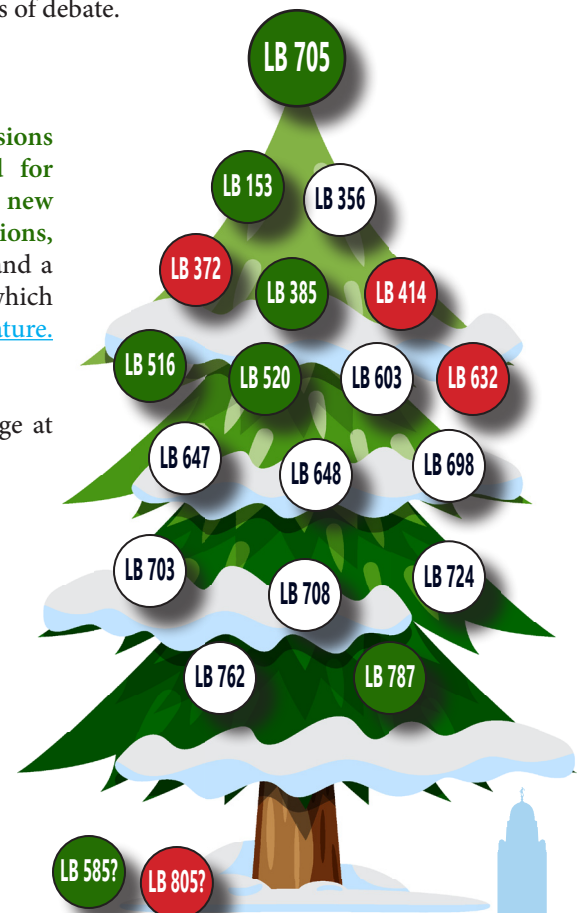
We anticipate other bills being hung as ornaments throughout the first rounds of debate. Watch for LBs 585 and 805 to be hung in subsequent days of debate.

THE TREE ...

The "Tree" is **LB 705 (Murman) - Change provisions for the distribution of lottery funds used for education, transfer powers and duties, create new acts and funds, and change education provisions, with AM 1468**. Here are the 17 ornaments, and a breakdowns from the Committee Statement which has more detail on all (<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/CS/LB705.pdf>).

You can also see more on the NASB bills page at <https://nasb.enviseams.com/legislative-bills>.

- **LB 153 (amended)**
- LB 356
- **LB 372 (amended)***
- **LB 385 (amended)**
- **LB 414 (amended)***
- **LB 516 (amended)**
- **LB 520**
- LB 603 (amended)
- **LB 632 (amended)**



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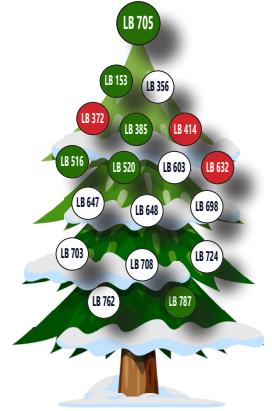
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- LB 647
- LB 648 (amended)
- LB 698
- LB 703 (amended)
- LB 708
- LB 724 (amended)
- LB 762 (amended)
-  LB 787 (amended)

Per the Committee Statement, AM 1468 incorporates the provisions of seventeen other education bills into LB 705. The Committee voted to adopt AM 1468 on an 8-0-0-0 vote.




AM 1468 also amends or introduces other programs found in LB 705, to include:

- The College Pathway Program Act and the College Pathway Program Cash Fund are created to serve low income and underrepresented students by providing grants to service providers who help qualifying applicants in a variety of services such as completing applications for college, completing the FAFSA, choosing correct course work to pursue a particular field of study.
- Distance education initiatives shall be funded through 2023-24 from the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund. Such initiatives shall be funded from 2024-29 from transfers pursuant to section 1 of this act (lottery revenue allocations).
- The Career Readiness and Dual Credit Education Grant is established and shall be administered by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Grants shall be provided to teachers enrolled in education pathways leading to qualification to teach dual-credit courses and career and technical education courses.
- Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant shall receive one percent of funds from the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund for fiscal year 2023-24. Going forward, funding shall be 1.5% of funds from transfers pursuant to section 1 of this act (lottery revenue allocations).
- 8 percent will be used for training teachers in safe behavioral management strategies, tactics, and de-escalation procedures. Funding for the training courses will be in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education's model behavioral management policy found in AM 1468.

 **LB 153 (as amended by AM 1421) - Would create the Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Expenditures Fund which shall be funded by two million five hundred thousand dollars from the Education Future Fund for fiscal year 2023-24 to carry out the Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Expenditures Act.**

LB 356 - Redefines terms under the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act.

 **LB 372 (as amended by AM 1231) - Allows homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities in the school district in which they reside and directs school boards in their policy to require a homeschooled student to enroll in not more and no less than five credit hours offered by the school in any semester. Tell your Senator that it is important to keep a nexus with any student who is going to represent your school.**



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 **LB 385 (as amended by AM 1397) - Creates the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act, which is funded by the Education Future Fund. The purpose of the act is to incentivize the recruitment and retention of new teachers and teachers with a high-need certification. New teachers would be eligible for a two thousand five-hundred-dollar grant at the beginning of years two, four, and six. Teachers with a high-need certification will be eligible for a one-time grant worth five thousand dollars at the beginning of a school year in which such high-need subjects are taught by the grant recipient.**

 **LB 414 (as amended by AM 689) - Would provide standards and practices for public school's option enrollment program in order to ensure that children with special needs are not disqualified due to their special needs. AM 689 offers clarifying language to address standards by which a school district may determine the manner in which they manage option student applications, and also directs the school district in reporting requirements to the DOE regarding how option student applications are handled. *Tell your Senator to adjust the date for identifying Special Ed capacities to April 1.***

 **LB 516 (as amended by AM 1442) - Appropriates eight hundred seventy thousand dollars from the General Fund each fiscal year to carry out the School Safety and Security Reporting Act in order to continue serving Nebraska citizens via the Safe2HelpNE hotline.**

 **LB 520 - Change provisions relating to high school graduation requirements and academic content standards and the Computer Science and Technology Education Act**

LB 603 (as amended by AM 1392) - Would incentivize the recruitment of public-school teachers by allowing persons who possess a bachelor's degree and have been certified to teach through alternative organizations to become certified to teach in Nebraska after participating in a school district clinical experience for one semester in such individual's first semester of employment.

 **LB 632 (as amended by AM 1208) - Would prohibit a school in a city of the metropolitan class from suspending a student in Pre-K through second grade. Exceptions are granted if such student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, or to a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, or in a vehicle being used for a school purpose or by a school employee.**

LB 647 - Change provisions relating to the purchase and loan of textbooks for children enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve of a private school.

LB 648 (as amended by AM 814) - Creates the High School Equivalency Grant Fund and appropriates seven hundred fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to provide assistance to institutions that offer high school equivalency programs and for expanding services and programs to support the completion of the general education test.

LB 698 - Change provisions relating to residency for enrollment in a public college or university.



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LB 703 (as amended by AM 1409) - Authorizes the Nebraska State College System, and the University of Nebraska System, to liquidate surplus property under its own authority.

LB 708 - Require the Office of Probation Administration, the State Court Administrator, the State Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding for the sharing of data regarding data relevant to students who are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

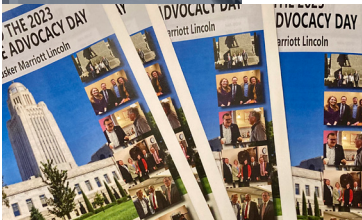
LB 724 (as amended by AM 1235) - Addresses the on-going teacher shortage in Nebraska by removing basic skills testing from certification requirements, while retaining content knowledge testing requirements.

LB 762 (as amended by AM 1399) - Creates the Nebraska Paraprofessional to Teacher Program in order to increase the number of teachers in Nebraska by assisting individuals employed as a paraprofessional or paraeducator. Such participants may receive a grant of up to three thousand dollars per semester to fund educational expenses such as tuition, books, or other materials as required to receive a teaching certification. The act creates the Paraprofessional to Teacher Program Fund and directs the legislature to transfer one million dollars each fiscal year from the Education Future Fund to carry out this program.



LB 787 (as amended by AM 1453) - Creates the STEEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Mathematics) Development Act using funds from the DOE Innovative Grant Fund. Such grants are to be used for developers to create learning platforms which provide game-based interaction to develop students in the fields of STEEM.

NASB'S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY - APRIL 17 ...



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