

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 515**

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend sections 85-1539 and
- 2 85-1540, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to create the
- 3 Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program; to state
- 4 findings; to define terms; to authorize grants; to require policy
- 5 recommendations; to require reporting; to state intent to provide an
- 6 appropriation; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
- 7 sections.
- 8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds that in order to be competitive in  
2 a global economy, Nebraska must develop educational programs in high-  
3 demand fields. The Legislature further finds that business interests in  
4 Nebraska have identified development of a skilled workforce as essential  
5 to building Nebraska's economy. Additionally, the federal Workforce  
6 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, 29 U.S.C. 3101, as such act  
7 existed on January 1, 2017, included the first requirement for states to  
8 provide integrated education and training services. Finally, community  
9 colleges in Nebraska are positioned to establish innovative approaches to  
10 developing credentials with meaning in the workforce that meet  
11 educational demand.

12           Sec. 2. For purposes of sections 1 to 5 of this act:

13           (1) Adult education means academic instruction and education  
14 services below the postsecondary level for any person who is sixteen  
15 years of age or older, who is not enrolled in high school and is not  
16 required to be enrolled in school, that increase the ability to read,  
17 write, and speak in English and perform mathematics or other activities  
18 necessary for the attainment of a high school diploma or a diploma of  
19 high school equivalency, for the transition to postsecondary education  
20 and training, and to obtain employment;

21           (2) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
22 Education;

23           (3) Committee means the Nebraska Community College Student  
24 Performance and Occupational Education Grant Committee;

25           (4) Integrated education and training means instruction that  
26 provides adult education and literacy activities or remedial education  
27 concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and  
28 workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for  
29 the purpose of educational and career advancement; and

30           (5) Remedial education means instruction and support to prepare a  
31 student who is assessed by the postsecondary educational institution that

1 the student has chosen as being academically underprepared to  
2 successfully complete a program of study at such postsecondary  
3 educational institution.

4       Sec. 3. (1) The Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant  
5 Program is established. The grant program shall provide grants to  
6 community colleges for the purpose of developing and implementing local  
7 programs of integrated education and training. The committee shall  
8 administer the program and shall develop grant applications, procedures,  
9 and guidelines as needed.

10       (2) The committee shall allocate grants of up to three years to  
11 community colleges through a competitive process. To be eligible, a  
12 community college shall submit an application to the committee  
13 describing:

14       (a) The specific integrated education and training instructional  
15 model to be implemented by the local program of integrated education and  
16 training;

17       (b) How the local program of integrated education and training will  
18 be designed and implemented by educators with expertise in adult  
19 education and occupational skills training;

20       (c) How the local program of integrated education and training will  
21 prepare students to receive a high school diploma or diploma of high  
22 school equivalency if necessary;

23       (d) How the local program of integrated education and training will  
24 prepare students to obtain postsecondary credentials;

25       (e) If applicable, how the local program of integrated education and  
26 training will offer industry-recognized credentials;

27       (f) The occupations or industry for which the local program of  
28 integrated education and training will prepare students for employment  
29 and how the program will fit into a career pathway;

30       (g) Evidence of employer demand for completers of the local program  
31 of integrated education and training;

1       (h) How the local program of integrated education and training will  
2 provide student support services, including guidance counseling, to  
3 assist with student success;

4       (i) Strategies for tracking and reporting outcomes and evaluation  
5 reporting for the local program of integrated education and training;

6       (j) Evidence of matching funds from local or philanthropic sources  
7 of at least one quarter of the total projected cost for the local program  
8 of integrated education and training;

9       (k) Description of target population, such as unemployed,  
10 underemployed, low-income, youth, dislocated workers, other, or a  
11 combination of target populations and how the local program of integrated  
12 education and training will serve such target population; and

13       (l) Other information as required by the committee.

14       Sec. 4. The commission shall develop an annual evaluation of the  
15 Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program that includes  
16 the following:

17       (1) The local programs of integrated education and training that  
18 each community college offers by name;

19       (2) The number of students who enrolled in each local program of  
20 integrated education and training;

21       (3) The number of students who successfully complete each local  
22 program of integrated education and training; and

23       (4) The percentage of students who obtained employment in the  
24 occupation or industry indicated in the grant application or who enrolled  
25 for additional education related to such occupation or industry within  
26 six months after successful completion for each local program of  
27 integrated education and training.

28       Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds to  
29 carry out the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program  
30 from the General Fund. Up to fifteen percent of such funds may be  
31 retained by the commission for administering grants, providing technical

1 assistance, and conducting the annual evaluation required pursuant to  
2 section 4 of this act.

3       Sec. 6. Section 85-1539, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
4 amended to read:

5       85-1539 (1) There is hereby created the Nebraska Community College  
6 Student Performance and Occupational Education Grant Committee. The  
7 committee shall consist of (a) a representative of the Coordinating  
8 Commission for Postsecondary Education who shall serve as chairperson of  
9 the committee, (b) a representative of the Department of Economic  
10 Development, (c) a representative of the Department of Labor, (d) a  
11 representative of the State Department of Education, (e) a representative  
12 affiliated with one of the two community college areas with the two  
13 smallest full-time equivalent student enrollment totals for the most  
14 recent fiscal year, (f) a representative affiliated with one of the two  
15 community college areas with the two largest full-time equivalent student  
16 enrollment totals for the most recent fiscal year, and (g) a  
17 representative affiliated with one of the two community college areas not  
18 included in the categories provided in subdivisions (1)(e) and (f) of  
19 this section. Each member shall be appointed by the agency or community  
20 college areas being represented. The representatives appointed pursuant  
21 to subdivisions (1)(e) through (g) of this section shall serve terms of  
22 two years and shall be succeeded by a representative affiliated with the  
23 community college areas not represented for the preceding term. The  
24 committee shall administer the grant program provided by subsection (2)  
25 of this section and the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant  
26 Program pursuant to sections 1 to 5 of this act.

27       (2) The committee shall develop guidelines for and annually  
28 determine the allocation of aid or grants to the community colleges for  
29 (a) applied technology and occupational faculty training, instructional  
30 equipment upgrades, employee assessment, preemployment training,  
31 employment training, and dislocated worker programs benefiting the State

1 of Nebraska or (b) programs or activities to enhance (i) student  
2 performance in the areas of degree, certificate, or diploma completion,  
3 retention, or foundations education as defined in section 85-932.01 or  
4 (ii) the collection, reporting, analysis, and utilization of student  
5 data. The total amount allocated for a fiscal year shall not exceed the  
6 amounts appropriated from the Nebraska Community College Student  
7 Performance and Occupational Education Grant Fund and such other funds as  
8 may be appropriated by the Legislature for purposes of this section for  
9 such fiscal year. The commission shall certify the allocation determined  
10 by the committee on or before September 10 of the fiscal year for which  
11 such allocation is being certified and shall report such allocation to  
12 the Department of Administrative Services. The commission shall  
13 distribute the allocated funds to the selected community college board or  
14 boards in a single payment between the fifth and twentieth day of October  
15 of each year.

16 (3) Applications for aid or grants pursuant to subsection (2) of  
17 this section may be submitted by a community college area independently  
18 or in collaboration with other community college areas.

19 Sec. 7. Section 85-1540, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
20 amended to read:

21 85-1540 There is hereby created the Nebraska Community College  
22 Student Performance and Occupational Education Grant Fund. The fund shall  
23 be under the direction of the Nebraska Community College Student  
24 Performance and Occupational Education Grant Committee and shall be  
25 administered by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.  
26 The fund shall consist of money received by the state in the form of  
27 grants or gifts from nonfederal sources, such other amounts as may be  
28 transferred or otherwise accrue to the fund, and any investment income  
29 earned on the fund. The fund shall be used to provide aid or grants to  
30 the community colleges pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of section  
31 85-1539. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested

1 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital  
2 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

3 Sec. 8. Original sections 85-1539 and 85-1540, Reissue Revised  
4 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.