

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 779

Introduced by Scheer, 19.

Read first time January 10, 2014

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to amend section
2 85-1413, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to
3 change provisions relating to transfer-of-credit
4 policies; and to repeal the original section.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 85-1413, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3 85-1413 (1) Pursuant to the authority granted in Article
4 VII, section 14, of the Constitution of Nebraska and the Coordinating
5 Commission for Postsecondary Education Act, the commission shall
6 establish and revise as needed a comprehensive statewide plan for
7 postsecondary education which shall include (a) definitions of the
8 role and mission of each public postsecondary educational institution
9 within any general assignments of role and mission as prescribed in
10 sections 85-917 to 85-966 and (b) a plan for facilities which utilize
11 tax funds designated by the Legislature.

12 (2) The planning process of the commission (a) shall be
13 policy-based and ongoing in order to achieve, within the coordination
14 function of the commission pursuant to section 85-1403, the best
15 possible use of available state resources for high quality and
16 accessible postsecondary educational services and (b) shall take into
17 consideration (i) the needs of the state as described in subsection
18 (3) of this section, (ii) general assignments of role and mission for
19 each public institution in sections 85-917 to 85-966, and (iii) plans
20 for facilities which utilize tax funds designated by the Legislature.

21 (3) In establishing the plan, the commission shall assess
22 the postsecondary educational needs of the state in the following
23 areas:

24 (a) The basic and continuing needs of various age groups;
25 (b) Business and industrial needs for a skilled work

1 force;

2 (c) Demographic, social, and economic trends;

3 (d) The needs of the ethnic populations;

4 (e) College attendance, retention, and dropout rates;

5 (f) The needs of recent high school graduates and place-
6 bound adults;

7 (g) The needs of residents of all geographic regions; and

8 (h) Any other areas the commission may designate.

9 (4) The plan shall provide a structure or process which
10 encourages and facilitates harmonious and cooperative relationships
11 between public and private postsecondary educational institutions and
12 shall recognize the role and relationship of elementary and secondary
13 education and private postsecondary educational institutions in the
14 state to postsecondary education.

15 (5) The commission shall incorporate into the plan
16 provisions and policies to guide decisionmaking by the commission
17 pursuant to this section and sections 85-1414 and 85-1415. The
18 provisions and policies shall address issues which include, but are
19 not limited to:

20 (a) The facilitation of statewide transfer-of-credit
21 ~~guidelines to be considered by institutional governing boards. The~~
22 ~~statewide transfer of credit guidelines shall be designed to~~
23 ~~facilitate the transfer of students among public institutions. The~~
24 ~~statewide transfer of credit guidelines shall not require nor~~
25 ~~encourage the standardization of course content and shall not~~

1 ~~prescribe course content or credit value assigned by any public~~
2 ~~institution to the courses;~~ policies. The commission shall, in
3 cooperation with individuals from public postsecondary educational
4 institutions and other interested institutions who have oversight of
5 curriculum and transfers of credits, develop transfer-of-credit
6 policies to be reviewed annually. The commission shall work with an
7 advisory committee consisting of at least one representative of every
8 public postsecondary educational institution in Nebraska and from
9 other interested postsecondary educational institutions. The
10 commission shall develop and maintain a web site, with data supplied
11 by the postsecondary educational institutions, to serve as a student
12 guide and resource for transfer-of-credit policies. The statewide
13 transfer-of-credit policies shall not require the standardization of
14 course content and shall not prescribe course content or credit
15 value;

16 (b) Recommended guidelines for admissions which recognize
17 selective and differentiated admission standards at public
18 institutions and which are consistent with the role and mission of
19 each public institution. It is the intent of the Legislature that
20 changes in admission standards be implemented in conjunction with the
21 role and mission statements established pursuant to this section and
22 sections 85-917 to 85-966 and the adoption of statewide transfer-of-
23 credit and remedial program policies to assure that access to
24 postsecondary education is not limited;

25 (c) Recommended enrollment guidelines consistent with the

1 role and mission of each public institution and specific
2 recommendations designed to increase diversity through more effective
3 enrollment and retention at public institutions;

4 (d) Recommended guidelines for rational and equitable
5 statewide tuition rates and fees for public institutions. The
6 commission shall identify public policy issues relating to tuition
7 and fees of the public postsecondary educational institutions in the
8 state. The recommended guidelines shall take into account the role
9 and mission of each public institution and the need to maximize
10 access to public postsecondary education regardless of a student's
11 financial circumstance;

12 (e) In conjunction with and consistent with its
13 recommended guidelines on admission standards, recommended guidelines
14 which place the primary emphasis at the community college level for
15 postsecondary education remedial programs and reduce the role of the
16 University of Nebraska in offering remedial programs. The commission
17 shall collaborate with the Commissioner of Education to develop
18 recommendations for secondary schools designed to reduce the need for
19 remedial or developmental programs at the postsecondary level;

20 (f) In consultation with the governing boards or their
21 designated representatives, designation of geographic and
22 programmatic service areas for each public institution consistent
23 with role and mission assignments. Except as permitted by the
24 commission pursuant to section 85-1414, no public institution shall
25 provide programs at any site outside its assigned geographic and

1 programmatic service area unless permitted under rules and
2 regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission;

3 (g) After consultation with the governing boards and
4 experts from outside the State of Nebraska, the establishment of a
5 peer group or groups for each public institution for purposes of
6 budget review. In fulfilling this charge, the commission may accept a
7 peer group determined by a governing board in consultation with out-
8 of-state experts;

9 (h) Effective use of information technologies and
10 telecommunications to aid in the delivery of instruction at the
11 postsecondary level. In cooperation with the Nebraska Educational
12 Telecommunications Commission, other state agencies, and, when
13 appropriate, representatives of elementary and secondary public
14 education, the commission may assist in the development of
15 instructional delivery systems employing information technologies and
16 telecommunications. The commission, with the involvement of
17 faculties, public institutions and private postsecondary educational
18 institutions, and the information technology and telecommunications
19 community, shall establish policies to ensure that the objectives of
20 quality and efficiency are met in the delivery of information
21 technology and telecommunications-aided instruction;

22 (i) Workforce development. The commission shall explore
23 methods to improve the competitive quality of the work force and
24 shall encourage enhanced communications and partnerships between
25 public institutions and business and industry;

1 (j) Public service activities. The public institutions
2 shall develop and provide to the commission a comprehensive inventory
3 of public service programs and activities of public institutions; and

4 (k) Financial aid strategy. The commission shall develop
5 a state strategy for state-supported student financial aid programs
6 with the goal of assuring access to and choice in postsecondary
7 education in Nebraska for Nebraska residents within the limits of
8 available state resources.

9 (6) The commission shall develop a unified statewide
10 facilities plan in consultation with the governing boards or their
11 designated representatives and update the plan periodically.

12 (7) Prior to March 15 of the year following a year in
13 which any revision is made to the comprehensive statewide plan, the
14 Education Committee of the Legislature shall review the comprehensive
15 statewide plan and revisions thereto at a public hearing and report
16 its findings electronically to the Legislature.

17 Sec. 2. Original section 85-1413, Revised Statutes
18 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.