

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB956

Hearing Date: Monday February 01, 2010
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Adams
One Liner: Rename the Nebraska Scholarship Act and change award provisions

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Cornett, Giese, Haar, Howard, Sullivan

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Greg Adams
Marshall Hill

Ritchie Morrow
Sandra Muskopf

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraskas Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
CCPE
Kaplan University

Opponents:

Neutral:

Tip Oneill

Representing:

Representing:
Association of Independent Colleges of Nebraska

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 956 would rename the Nebraska Scholarship Act as the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act, modify the income qualifications, and increase the maximum award amounts. In addition to Pell Grant eligible students, students with an expected family contribution of \$6,000 or less would qualify for a grant under the act. The \$6,000 threshold would increase each year by 2.5%. The maximum award amount under the act would be increased from 25% of the tuition and fees for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to 50% of such amount.

Section 85-1901 would be amended to change the name of the Nebraska Scholarship Act to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act. Sections 85-1412, 85-1902, 85-1907, 85-1908, 85-1911, 85-1912, 85-1913, 85-1914, 85-1915, 85-1917, 85-1918, and 85-1919 would be amended to harmonize with the change in the name of the act.

Section 85-1920 would be amended to change the name of the Nebraska Scholarship Fund to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund, to harmonize with the change in the name of the act, and to eliminate obsolete language. Money in the fund with the old name would be transferred to the fund with the new name on the operative date. Sections 9-812 and 9-836.01 would be amended to harmonize with the change in the fund name.

Section 85-1903 would be amended by increasing the maximum award amount under the act from 25% of the tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to 50% of such

amount beginning with the 2010-11 award year. The maximum award had been at the higher level for the 2007-08 award year.

Section 85-1907 would be amended by allowing students to qualify for grants under the act who have applied for federal financial aid and who have an expected family contribution for the applicable award year of no more than the qualifying maximum. The qualifying maximum would be \$6,000 for 2010-11 and would increase by 2.5% each year thereafter. Currently, qualifying students must be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant. The maximum expected family contribution for Pell eligibility for 2009-10 was \$4,617. Pell eligible students would continue to qualify.

Sections 85-1909 and 85-1912 would be amended by eliminating obsolete language.

The measure would have an emergency clause and an operative date of July 1, 2010.

Greg Adams, Chairperson