

**ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB558**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 22, 2011  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Nordquist  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to focus schools, focus programs, and magnet schools

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Adams, Avery, Cornett, Council, Haar, Howard, Schilz, Sullivan  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**

Tiffany Seibert  
John Lindsay  
Willie Barney  
Andrew Rikli  
Michelle Duran  
Sandi Dewitt  
Ann Long  
Julie Brewer  
Omer Bilal  
Arthur Brown  
Jourdan Bowles  
Trevan Billings  
Sheri Cohen Vollmer  
Wendy Duerfeldt Schutte  
Evelyn Acosta

**Representing:**

Senator Jeremy Nordquist  
Omaha Public Schools  
Parents of Underwood Hills  
Westside Community Schools  
Underwood Hills Focus School  
Underwood Hills Focus School  
Learning Community of Douglas & Sarpy Counties  
Learning Community of Douglas & Sarpy Counties  
Underwood Hills Focus School  
Underwood Hills Focus School

**Opponents:**

Bob Twiss

**Representing:**

Self

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

Section 79-769 would be amended by eliminating the requirements for focus program, focus schools, and magnet school to be established pursuant to a learning community diversity plan and for a primary district to maintain legal, financial, and academic responsibility for multidistrict focus programs, focus schools, and magnet schools. The focus school allowance would continue to be restricted to focus schools and programs that are part of a learning community diversity plan, but the other changes would expand the allowance to include multidistrict focus schools and programs that are part of such diversity plans.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee Amendments would require multidistrict focus programs, focus schools, and magnet schools to form a joint entity pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act for the purpose of creating, implementing, and operating the program or school. The agreement creating the joint entity would be required to address legal, financial, and academic responsibilities, and the assignment to participating districts of students enrolled in such program or school who reside in non-participating districts.

New language in the original proposal limiting the focus school and program allowance to schools and programs in a diversity plan would be moved within section 79-769.

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Greg Adams, Chairperson