

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB692

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 03, 2014

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 692 presents Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission statutes that contain technical and programmatic references which are inaccurate or obsolete. LB 692 is technical in nature and does not change or expand the Agency's role and responsibility within state government. LB 692 changes technology references to recognize Federal Communications Commission mandates regarding digital broadcasts; acknowledges the emergence of distribution venues involving streaming government and educational content over the Internet; and updates terminology regarding technology and educational telecommunications services (i.e. "digital archive" instead of "film library").

LB692 also eliminates language regarding programs and facilities that have been eliminated. This includes (1) a reference to the NET distance learning system which no longer exists under §79-1317; (2) satellite and transponder references under §79-1319; and (3) the requirement that educational telecommunications services be limited to in-class instruction also under §79-1319.

Finally, under LB692, four statutes are proposed to be entirely eliminated: 79-1321, which pertains to the now defunct NET SAT cash fund; and 79-1323 through 79-1325, which supported educational initiatives within the Department of Education and contractual services at NET that were eliminated in budget cuts over a decade ago. The Department of Education supports these changes.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Sullivan