

AMENDMENTS TO LB 495

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments
2 thereto and insert the following new sections:

3 "Section 1. Sections 1 to 13 of this act shall be known
4 and may be cited as the Education and Career Preparation Act.

5 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that technology is
6 changing the educational and training needs of employees. These
7 changes are found in all areas of employment and are directly
8 related to Nebraska remaining competitive in a global economy.
9 These changes also raise employer expectations of prospective
10 employees from all education levels, including those with a
11 baccalaureate degree. Education and career preparation are
12 critical because students must possess academic, communication, and
13 technological skills needed for employment and continued lifelong
14 learning. Therefor, there is an urgent need for quality career
15 preparation and technical education programs in the secondary
16 schools of Nebraska in order to assist students in:

17 (1) Acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for
18 successful entry into a career preparation program at a
19 postsecondary educational institution or into employment;

20 (2) Developing skills to balance the dimensions of work,
21 family, and community;

22 (3) Gaining exposure to a wide variety of careers; and

23 (4) Gaining experience in career paths through supervised
24 work-based experience.

1 Sec. 3. The purpose of the Education and Career
2 Preparation Act is to focus on the academic, technical, and
3 employment skills necessary for success in a career through career
4 preparation and technical education programs such as agricultural
5 education, business education, career guidance and counseling,
6 family and consumer sciences, industrial technology education,
7 marketing education, health occupations education, and diversified
8 occupations.

9 Sec. 4. (1) The Education and Career Preparation Fund is
10 hereby created. For school fiscal year 2000-01, it is the intent
11 of the Legislature to appropriate funds to be distributed as
12 competitive grants to school districts and consortia of school
13 districts by the State Board of Vocational Education pursuant to
14 subsections (2) and (3) of this section on or before December 15,
15 2000. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one
16 million five hundred thousand dollars for school fiscal year
17 2000-01 to the fund. The fund shall be allocated in the following
18 manner:

19 (a) Up to forty percent to grant recipients who are
20 requesting a grant for the purposes of buying equipment related to
21 career preparation and technical education;

22 (b) Up to thirty percent to grant recipients who are
23 requesting a grant for the purposes of buying career preparation
24 and technical education curriculum materials or skills assessments;
25 and

26 (c) Up to thirty percent to grant recipients who are
27 requesting a grant for the purposes of innovative career

1 preparation and technical educational programs, such as
2 articulation programs with postsecondary education or improved
3 career guidance and counseling programs.

4 (2) To apply for a grant, each school district or
5 consortium of school districts shall complete a grant application
6 and provide a curriculum support plan and a grant-matching plan.
7 The application and plans shall be signed by the school
8 administrator and returned to the State Department of Education on
9 or before October 1, 2000. The curriculum support plan shall:
10 Identify the goals and needs that will be supported by the grant;
11 how the goals and needs are directly related to the school
12 improvement plan or plans of the school district or the school
13 districts in the consortium; and how the grant will be used to
14 directly advance the goals and needs identified. The
15 grant-matching plan shall show how the school districts or
16 consortium of school districts will match the grant one-hundred
17 percent, by means of: School district funds; community partnership
18 gifts, donations, money, and services, including in-kind resources
19 and volunteer time; or individual gifts, donations, money, and
20 services, including in-kind resources and volunteer time. The
21 estimated value of in-kind resources and volunteer time shall be
22 used in calculating the amount of the applicant's matching funds.
23 If the school district or consortium of school districts does not
24 match the full amount of the grant within one year after receiving
25 the grant, such school district or consortium of districts shall
26 return the unmatched amount of the grant to the department. If the
27 school district or consortium of school districts fails to return

1 the unmatched grant amount within one year and six months after
2 receiving the grant, state aid shall be withheld from each school
3 district involved such that the total amount withheld from the
4 school district or each school district in a consortium is equal to
5 the unmatched grant amount.

6 (3) A school district or consortium of school districts
7 shall only receive one grant. Each grant shall not exceed fifty
8 thousand dollars. The grants to be awarded shall be selected by
9 the State Board of Vocational Education after recommendations are
10 received from the advisory committee pursuant to section 5 of this
11 act.

12 Sec. 5. (1) Within thirty days after the effective date
13 of this act, the Governor shall appoint an advisory committee to
14 provide recommendations to the State Board of Vocational Education
15 for the awarding of grants. The membership of the advisory
16 committee shall consist of:

17 (a) The program manager for vocational education of the
18 State Department of Education;

19 (b) One representative from business;

20 (c) One representative of labor;

21 (d) One school administrator;

22 (e) One teacher currently involved in career preparation
23 and technical education programs;

24 (f) One teacher who is a member of an association for
25 career and technical education teachers; and

26 (g) The executive director of the Nebraska Community
27 College Association or his or her designee.

1 The program manager for vocational education shall be the
2 chairperson of the advisory committee and shall arrange for the
3 initial and subsequent meetings. Committee members shall be
4 reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in
5 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. Committee members that have a
6 conflict of interest as delineated in section 49-1499 or as
7 perceived by the member shall abstain from participating in the
8 recommendation of a particular grant. The recommendations may be
9 to award a designated portion or the full amount of any grant
10 request up to fifty thousand dollars. The recommendations must be
11 given to the State Board of Vocational Education on or before
12 November 15, 2000. The advisory committee terminates on December
13 31, 2000.

14 Sec. 6. The State Department of Education shall develop
15 applications for the grants and distribute such applications on or
16 before August 1, 2000.

17 Sec. 7. The State Board of Vocational Education shall
18 adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to establish monitoring
19 procedures for determining the results of sections 1 through 5 of
20 this act.

21 Sec. 8. The Education and Career Preparation Task Force
22 is created. The task force shall consist of the members appointed
23 pursuant to section 9 of this act. The task force shall report its
24 findings and recommendations to the Clerk of the Legislature and
25 the Education Committee of the Legislature on or before October 1,
26 2000.

27 Sec. 9. Members of the Education and Career Preparation

1 Task Force shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the
2 Legislative Council on or before April 15, 2000, and shall include:

3 (1) One member of the Education Committee of the
4 Legislature;

5 (2) One member of the Business and Labor Committee of the
6 Legislature;

7 (3) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

8 (4) One representative from the Governor's Policy
9 Research Office;

10 (5) One secondary teacher involved in career preparation
11 and technical education programs;

12 (6) One teacher who is a member of an association for
13 career preparation and technical education teachers;

14 (7) One representative from business;

15 (8) One representative from labor;

16 (9) The program manager for vocational education at the
17 State Department of Education;

18 (10) One representative from the State Department of
19 Education who works with student organizations in the area of
20 career preparation and technical education;

21 (11) One high school student leader involved in student
22 organizations in the area of career preparation and technical
23 education;

24 (12) One representative of an association of school
25 boards;

26 (13) One taxpayer from a Class II or III school district;

27 (14) One representative of an association of school

1 administrators;

2 (15) One taxpayer from a Class IV or V school district;

3 (16) One representative from a community college who is
4 involved in career preparation and technical training; and

5 (17) One representative of a career preparation and
6 technical education teacher education program.

7 Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their actual and
8 necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as members
9 of the task force as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The
10 Education Committee member shall be the chairperson of the task
11 force and shall arrange for the initial and subsequent meetings.
12 The Education Committee of the Legislature, other legislative
13 staff, and the State Department of Education shall provide research
14 and administrative support for the task force. The task force may
15 retain a national consultant to assist with the study.

16 Sec. 10. The Education and Career Preparation Task Force
17 shall study the following topics and make recommendations for
18 Nebraska policies and potential legislation to the Clerk of the
19 Legislature and the Education Committee of the Legislature:

20 (1) The purpose, role, and mission of career preparation
21 and technical education programs;

22 (2) The prevalence of and need for career preparation and
23 technical education programs at both the middle school and high
24 school levels;

25 (3) The funding for career preparation and technical
26 education programs, curriculum, and equipment at both the middle
27 school and high school levels;

1 (4) The availability of teachers of career preparation
2 and technical education and the status of career preparation and
3 technical teacher education programs;

4 (5) The need for career preparation and technical
5 education articulation programs in high schools and postsecondary
6 educational institutions;

7 (6) The feasibility of operating different delivery
8 systems for career preparation and technical education programs,
9 including a career preparation and technical high school or
10 schools; and

11 (7) Any other topics related to career preparation and
12 technical education as determined by the task force.

13 Sec. 11. The Education Committee of the Legislature
14 shall hold at least one public hearing in each congressional
15 district in Nebraska on the recommendations of the Education and
16 Career Preparation Task Force before December 31, 2000.

17 Sec. 12. The Education and Career Preparation Task Force
18 terminates on December 31, 2000.

19 Sec. 13. Since an emergency exists, this act takes
20 effect when passed and approved according to law."