

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1206

Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges; and
- 3 to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) The COVID-19 public health emergency significantly impacted how
3 the Nebraska State Colleges operate and emphasized the need to make
4 investments that will result in a significant return on investment for
5 Nebraska by (i) generating a long-term reduction in costs, (ii)
6 strengthening workforce and economic development, and (iii) improving
7 student success and safety;

8 (b) Investing in energy efficiency upgrades presents an opportunity
9 to generate long-term cost savings for students and Nebraska. Expanding
10 the geothermal, solar energy, and natural gas footprint at each Nebraska
11 state college aligns with existing infrastructure investments and
12 provides an avenue for more efficient and healthy air handling systems
13 for students;

14 (c) The public health emergency has increased the need for
15 investments in key workforce shortage areas in the state where program
16 expansion in these critical areas seeks to increase student enrollment in
17 these essential workforce areas;

18 (d) Investments in state-of-the-art equipment improve the
19 educational experience for new and existing students; and

20 (e) An evolution in the teaching and learning process requires new
21 instructional technologies to foster student access due to the pandemic.
22 Expanding controlled access of key access points increases security for
23 students and staff. Additionally, increased cybersecurity threats to
24 faculty, staff, and student data warrant critical investments in common
25 cybersecurity infrastructure to protect these data into the future.

26 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$44,300,000 from Federal Funds for
27 FY2022-23 to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges for the
28 purposes described in subsection (3) of this section. The Federal Funds
29 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of
30 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
31 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,

1 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

2 (3) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall use
3 the funds appropriated in this section for the following purposes:

4 (a) Improvement to air quality and energy efficiency;

5 (b) Improvement to information technology infrastructure and
6 cybersecurity;

7 (c) Acquisition of instructional equipment;

8 (d) Enhancement of instructional facilities to support workforce
9 programs to address workforce shortages in Nebraska; and

10 (e) Upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure.

11 Sec. 2. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
12 passed and approved according to law.