

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1284

FINAL READING

Introduced by Walz, 15; McKinney, 11; McDonnell, 5; Blood, 3; Vargas, 7;
Dungan, 26.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend section 38-3113,
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 79-8,146, 79-8,147,
3 79-8,148, 79-8,149, 79-8,150, 79-8,151, 79-2607, 79-3301, and
4 85-3004, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, and sections
5 79-8,114, 79-1021, 85-3103, 85-3105, and 85-3112, Revised Statutes
6 Supplement, 2023; to define and redefine terms; to develop a pilot
7 program to make menstrual products available to schools as
8 prescribed; to create a Dyslexia Research Grant Program; to make
9 changes to the Psychology Practice Act and the Nebraska Teacher
10 Recruitment and Retention Act; to change provisions relating to the
11 eligible uses of the Education Future Fund; to terminate loan
12 repayment assistance and provide grants to teachers under the Teach
13 in Nebraska Today Act; to provide powers and duties to the State
14 Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the
15 Commissioner of Education; to provide for the creation and support
16 of a professional learning system and regional coaches relating to
17 instruction in reading; to require the State Department of Education
18 to establish a statewide computer science and technology education
19 expansion program under the Computer Science and Technology
20 Education Act; to create the Computer Science and Technology
21 Education Fund; to add an additional eligible program of study

1 offered by the University of Nebraska under the Nebraska Career
2 Scholarship Act; to change provisions relating to the Attracting
3 Excellence to Teaching Program and eligible uses for the Excellence
4 in Teaching Cash Fund; to state intent regarding appropriations; to
5 harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to repeal the
6 original sections; and to declare an emergency.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) Beginning in school year 2025-26 and subject to
2 available appropriations, the State Department of Education shall develop
3 a pilot program to make menstrual products, including both pads and
4 tampons, available to each school district. Priority shall be given to
5 each school district:

6 (a) That classifies as a needs improvement school under the
7 accountability system developed by the State Board of Education pursuant
8 to section 79-760.06; or

9 (b) In which forty percent of the students are poverty students as
10 defined in section 79-1003.

11 (2) For school year 2025-26, a school district that receives free
12 menstrual products pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall
13 ensure that free menstrual products, including both pads and tampons, are
14 available in school bathrooms.

15 (3) A school board or board of education may adopt a policy relating
16 to the requirements of this section.

17 (4) The State Department of Education shall submit a report
18 electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Education
19 Committee of the Legislature relating to the pilot program for free
20 menstrual products pursuant to this section on or before December 1,
21 2026.

22 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate an amount not
23 to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the Education Future
24 Fund for fiscal year 2025-26 to the State Department of Education to
25 carry out this section.

26 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
27 regulations to carry out this section.

28 Sec. 2. (1) For purposes of this section:

29 (a) Department means the State Department of Education; and

30 (b) Eligible applicant means a privately owned business based in
31 Nebraska that is in the process of researching artificial-intelligence-

1 based writing assistance that can be used to assist individuals with
2 dyslexia.

3 (2) The Dyslexia Research Grant Program is created and shall be
4 administered by the department.

5 (3)(a) An eligible applicant may apply to the department for a grant
6 under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program. The department shall prescribe
7 the application form that is to be completed when applying for a grant
8 under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program. The grant shall be conditioned
9 on compliance with this section.

10 (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c) of this subsection, the
11 department may award a grant to any eligible applicant.

12 (c) The total amount of all grants awarded under the Dyslexia
13 Research Grant Program shall not be more than five hundred thousand
14 dollars. It is the intent of the Legislature that grants awarded pursuant
15 to this section shall be funded from the Education Future Fund.

16 (4) All grant money received under the Dyslexia Research Grant
17 Program shall be used only for the purpose of researching the use of
18 artificial-intelligence-based writing assistance by individuals with
19 dyslexia. Such research shall be focused on using aggregate writing
20 analytics to identify writing errors and patterns that can be used by
21 teachers to develop a comprehensive literacy plan for students with
22 dyslexia.

23 (5)(a) If any grant money received under the Dyslexia Research Grant
24 Program is used in violation of subsection (4) of this section, the
25 department shall notify the Attorney General of such violation.

26 (b) The Attorney General shall bring a civil action in any court of
27 competent jurisdiction to recoup any money spent in violation of
28 subsection (4) of this section. Any money collected in such civil action
29 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Education
30 Future Fund.

31 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and

1 regulations to carry out this section.

2 Sec. 3. Section 38-3113, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 38-3113 Nothing in the Psychology Practice Act shall be construed to
5 prevent:

6 (1) The teaching of psychology, the conduct of psychological
7 research, or the provision of psychological services or consultation to
8 organizations or institutions if such teaching, research, or service does
9 not involve the delivery or supervision of direct psychological services
10 to individuals or groups of individuals who are themselves, rather than a
11 third party, the intended beneficiaries of such services, without regard
12 to the source or extent of payment for services rendered. Nothing in the
13 act shall prevent the provision of expert testimony by psychologists who
14 are otherwise exempted by the act. Persons holding a doctoral degree in
15 psychology from an institution of higher education may use the title
16 psychologist in conjunction with the activities permitted by this
17 subdivision;

18 (2) Members of other recognized professions that are licensed,
19 certified, or regulated under the laws of this state from rendering
20 services consistent with their professional training and code of ethics
21 and within the scope of practice as set out in the statutes regulating
22 their professional practice if they do not represent themselves to be
23 psychologists;

24 (3) Duly recognized members of the clergy from functioning in their
25 ministerial capacity if they do not represent themselves to be
26 psychologists or their services as psychological;

27 (4) Persons who are certified as school psychologists by the State
28 Board of Education from using the title school psychologist and
29 practicing psychology as defined in the Psychology Practice Act if (a)
30 such practice is restricted to regular employment within a setting under
31 the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education. Such individuals shall

1 be employees of the educational setting and not independent contractors
2 providing psychological services to educational settings, ~~÷~~ or (b)
3 employed through a service agency with special education programs and
4 rates approved by the State Department of Education; or

5 (5) Any of the following persons from engaging in activities defined
6 as the practice of psychology if they do not represent themselves by the
7 title psychologist, if they do not use terms other than psychological
8 trainee, psychological intern, psychological resident, or psychological
9 assistant to refer to themselves, and if they perform their activities
10 under the supervision and responsibility of a psychologist in accordance
11 with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated under the
12 Psychology Practice Act:

13 (a) A matriculated graduate student in psychology whose activities
14 constitute a part of the course of study for a graduate degree in
15 psychology at an institution of higher education;

16 (b) An individual pursuing postdoctoral training or experience in
17 psychology, including persons seeking to fulfill the requirements for
18 licensure under the act; or

19 (c) An individual with a master's degree in clinical, counseling, or
20 educational psychology or an educational specialist degree in school
21 psychology who administers and scores and may develop interpretations of
22 psychological testing under the supervision of a psychologist. Such
23 individuals shall be deemed to be conducting their duties as an extension
24 of the legal and professional authority of the supervising psychologist
25 and shall not independently provide interpretive information or treatment
26 recommendations to clients or other health care professionals prior to
27 obtaining appropriate supervision. The department, with the
28 recommendation of the board, may adopt and promulgate rules and
29 regulations governing the conduct and supervision of persons referred to
30 in this subdivision, including the number of such persons that may be
31 supervised by a licensed psychologist. Persons who have carried out the

1 duties described in this subdivision as part of their employment in
2 institutions accredited by the Department of Health and Human Services,
3 the State Department of Education, or the Department of Correctional
4 Services for a period of two years prior to September 1, 1994, may use
5 the title psychologist associate in the context of their employment in
6 such settings. Use of the title shall be restricted to duties described
7 in this subdivision, and the title shall be used in its entirety. Partial
8 or abbreviated use of the title and use of the title beyond what is
9 specifically authorized in this subdivision shall constitute the
10 unlicensed practice of psychology.

11 Sec. 4. Section 79-8,114, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
12 amended to read:

13 79-8,114 (1) A teacher may apply to the department for a grant. The
14 department shall not prioritize a grant based upon the school where the
15 applicant teaches.

16 (2) A teacher is eligible to apply for:

17 (a) A retention one grant of two thousand five hundred dollars if
18 the teacher has signed a contract to complete such teacher's second
19 complete school year of full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska
20 school in school year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27;

21 (b) A retention two grant of two thousand five hundred dollars if
22 the teacher has signed a contract to complete such teacher's fourth
23 complete school year of full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska
24 school in school year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27;

25 (c) A retention three grant of two thousand five hundred dollars if
26 the teacher has signed a contract to complete such teacher's sixth
27 complete school year of full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska
28 school in school year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27; and

29 (d)(i) A high-need retention grant of five thousand dollars if on or
30 after June 2, 2023, a teacher:

31 (A) Obtains an endorsement in special education, mathematics,

1 science, technology, or dual credit; and

2 (B)(I) For an application submitted prior to the operative date of
3 this section, signs ~~(B) Signs~~ a contract to complete a school year of
4 full-time employment as a teacher at a Nebraska school in school year
5 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27; or -

6 (II) For an application submitted on or after the operative date of
7 this section, signs a contract to complete a school year of full-time
8 employment as a teacher to teach in such endorsement area at a Nebraska
9 school in school year 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27.

10 (ii) A teacher shall only be eligible to receive one high-need
11 retention grant.

12 Sec. 5. Section 79-8,146, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
13 2022, is amended to read:

14 79-8,146 Sections 79-8,146 to 79-8,153 and section 9 of this act
15 shall be known and may be cited as the Teach in Nebraska Today Act.

16 Sec. 6. Section 79-8,147, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
17 2022, is amended to read:

18 79-8,147 For purposes of the Teach in Nebraska Today Act:

19 (1) Default has the same meaning as in 20 U.S.C. 1085, as such
20 section existed on January 1, 2022;

21 (2) Department means the State Department of Education;

22 (3) Grant means a grant for beginning or continuing service as a
23 classroom teacher under the Teach in Nebraska Today Act;

24 (4) (3) Program means the Teach in Nebraska Today Program created in
25 section 79-8,148; and

26 (5) (4) Teaching full-time means (a) teaching an average of at least
27 four hours per contract day performing instructional duties as a full-
28 time employee of an approved or accredited public, private,
29 denominational, or parochial school in this state or (b) teaching an
30 average of at least four hours per contract day performing dual-credit
31 instructional duties for students of approved or accredited public,

1 private, denominational, or parochial schools in this state while
2 employed full-time at an accredited public or private nonprofit college
3 or university in this state.

4 Sec. 7. Section 79-8,148, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2022, is amended to read:

6 79-8,148 The Teach in Nebraska Today Program is created. The
7 department shall administer the program. The purpose of the program is to
8 attract individuals to the teaching profession who have expressed an
9 interest in teaching and to support the employment of those individuals
10 as classroom teachers by providing student loan repayment assistance or
11 grants for service as a classroom teacher in this state.

12 Sec. 8. Section 79-8,149, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
13 2022, is amended to read:

14 79-8,149 (1) Prior to the operative date of this section, student
15 ~~student~~ loan repayment assistance under the program shall be available to
16 an individual who applies for the assistance and who:

17 (a) Is a resident of the State of Nebraska; and

18 (b) Is teaching full-time or has a contract to teach full-time at
19 the time of application for the program.

20 (2) The amount of repayment assistance awarded to an eligible
21 applicant pursuant to this section shall be limited to five thousand
22 dollars per year. An eligible applicant may be awarded repayment
23 assistance for applications approved prior to the operative date of this
24 section for up to five years. The five years of awards are not required
25 to be consecutive but shall not extend beyond eight years in total.

26 (3) If the funds available for repayment assistance in any year are
27 insufficient to provide assistance to all eligible applicants described
28 in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall establish
29 priorities for awarding repayment assistance with renewal applications
30 given priority over initial applications. For initial applications,
31 priority shall be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need.

1 (4) An eligible applicant may receive repayment assistance under the
2 program for the repayment of a student loan received through any lender
3 which was incurred in the applicant's own name for his or her own
4 educational expenses at any accredited public or private nonprofit
5 college or university in this state or any other state. If the loan is
6 not a state or federal guaranteed student loan, the note or other writing
7 governing the terms of the loan must require the loan proceeds to be used
8 for expenses incurred by the applicant to attend an accredited public or
9 private nonprofit college or university in this state or any other state.

10 (5) No additional applications for repayment assistance shall be
11 approved after the operative date of this section.

12 Sec. 9. (1) Beginning on the operative date of this section, a
13 grant under the program shall be available to an individual who applies
14 for the grant and who:

15 (a) Is a resident of the State of Nebraska;

16 (b) Is teaching full-time or has a contract to teach full-time at
17 the time of the application for the program;

18 (c) Has taught in Nebraska five years or less at the time of the
19 application or renewal; and

20 (d) Has an individual income that is less than fifty-five thousand
21 dollars per year.

22 (2) The amount of a grant awarded to an eligible applicant pursuant
23 to this section shall be limited to five thousand dollars per year. An
24 eligible applicant may be awarded a grant for up to five years.

25 (3) If the funds available for grants in any year are insufficient
26 to provide grants to all eligible applicants described in subsection (1)
27 of this section, the department shall establish priorities to award
28 grants with renewal applications given priority over initial
29 applications. For initial applications, priority shall be given to
30 applicants who demonstrate financial need.

31 Sec. 10. Section 79-8,150, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2022, is amended to read:

2 79-8,150 (1) Applications for student loan repayment assistance
3 must be submitted no later than June 10, 2023, ~~and no later than June 10~~
4 ~~of each year thereafter~~, on a form developed by the department. The
5 department shall determine whether to approve or deny each application
6 and shall notify each applicant of such determination no later than
7 September 10, 2023, ~~and no later than September 10 of each year~~
8 ~~thereafter~~. Repayment assistance awarded under the program shall be paid,
9 in whole or in part as provided in section 79-8,151, no later than
10 November 10, 2023, and no later than November 10 of each year thereafter
11 for an application approved prior to the operative date of this section.
12 No new applications for loan repayment assistance shall be approved after
13 the operative date of this section.

14 (2) Applications for a grant must be submitted no later than July
15 10, 2024, and no later than July 10 of each year thereafter, on a form
16 and in a manner prescribed by the department. The department shall
17 determine whether to approve or deny each application and shall notify
18 each applicant of such determination no later than October 10, 2024, and
19 no later than October 10 of each year thereafter. Grants awarded under
20 the program shall be paid directly to the applicant no later than
21 December 10, 2024, and no later than December 10 of each year thereafter.

22 Sec. 11. Section 79-8,151, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
23 2022, is amended to read:

24 79-8,151 (1) For applications approved prior to the operative date
25 of this section, student ~~Student~~ loan repayment assistance awarded under
26 the program may be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to
27 interest that accrues. The repayment assistance shall be paid in one of
28 the following three ways as directed by the applicant on his or her
29 application:

30 (a) Directly to the lender or loan servicer that holds the
31 outstanding balance of the student loan in one lump-sum payment;

1 (b) Directly to the lender or loan servicer that holds the
2 outstanding balance of the student loan in monthly payments. Such monthly
3 payments shall be made:

4 (i) In twelve equal payments; or

5 (ii) If requested by the applicant, in smaller amounts over a longer
6 period of time, not to exceed twenty-four months. In such case, payments
7 shall be equal for the first twelve months or until such time as the
8 applicant's payment amount is recalculated by the lender or loan servicer
9 and then, if adjusted, shall be equal for the next twelve-month period.
10 Any unpaid funds at the end of twenty-four months may be requested to be
11 paid in a lump-sum payment to the lender or loan servicer or shall be
12 considered forfeited by the applicant. Applicants who are awarded
13 repayment assistance in more than one year may have their awards divided
14 across no more than one hundred twenty monthly payments under the
15 program; or

16 (c) Directly to the applicant for the purpose of making the
17 applicant's student loan payments. This subdivision shall only be
18 available if the applicant is not in default on any student loan at the
19 time of application. Any individual receiving repayment assistance under
20 this subdivision must provide documentation that the full award was used
21 for student loan payments when (i) applying for repayment assistance
22 under the program in subsequent years and (ii) claiming an adjustment to
23 federal adjusted gross income pursuant to section 77-2716. Such
24 documentation shall be provided using a form prescribed by the
25 department.

26 (2) The department may contract with a third-party vendor to
27 administer the repayment assistance provided pursuant to the program.

28 Sec. 12. Section 79-1021, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
29 amended to read:

30 79-1021 (1) The Education Future Fund is created. The fund shall be
31 administered by the department and shall consist of money transferred to

1 the fund by the Legislature. Transfers may be made from the Education
2 Future Fund to the Computer Science and Technology Education Fund at the
3 direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Education Future Fund fund
4 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
5 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
6 State Funds Investment Act.

7 (2) The fund shall be used only for the following purposes, in order
8 of priority:

9 (a) To fully fund equalization aid under the Tax Equity and
10 Educational Opportunities Support Act;

11 (b) To fund reimbursements related to special education under
12 section 79-1142;

13 (c) To fund foundation aid under the Tax Equity and Educational
14 Opportunities Support Act;

15 (d) To increase funding for school districts in a way that results
16 in direct property tax relief, which means a dollar-for-dollar
17 replacement of property taxes by a state funding source;

18 (e) To provide funding for a grant program created by the
19 Legislature to address teacher turnover rates and keep existing teachers
20 in classrooms;

21 (f) To provide funding to increase career and technical educational
22 classroom opportunities for students, including, but not limited to,
23 computer science education. Such funding must provide students with the
24 academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to
25 succeed in future careers;

26 (g) To provide funding for a grant program created by the
27 Legislature to provide students the opportunity to have a mentor who will
28 continuously engage with the student directly to aid in the student's
29 professional growth and give ongoing support and encouragement to the
30 student;

31 (h) To provide funding for extraordinary increases in special

1 education expenditures to allow school districts with large, unexpected
2 special education expenditures to more easily meet the needs of all
3 students; ~~and~~

4 (i) To provide funding to help recruit teachers throughout the state
5 by utilizing apprenticeships through a teacher apprenticeship program and
6 an alternative certification process; ~~-~~

7 (j) To provide funding to develop and implement a professional
8 learning system to help provide sustained professional learning and
9 training regarding evidence-based reading instruction and for a grant
10 program relating to dyslexia research; and

11 (k) To provide funding for a pilot project administered by the State
12 Department of Education to provide menstrual products to school
13 districts.

14 (3)(a) The State Treasurer shall transfer one billion dollars from
15 the General Fund to the Education Future Fund in fiscal year 2023-24, on
16 such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget administrator of
17 the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

18 (b) The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty million
19 dollars from the General Fund to the Education Future Fund in fiscal year
20 2024-25, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget
21 administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative
22 Services.

23 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that two hundred fifty
24 million dollars be transferred from the General Fund to the Education
25 Future Fund in fiscal year 2025-26 and each fiscal year thereafter.

26 Sec. 13. Section 79-2607, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
27 2022, is amended to read:

28 79-2607 (1) For purposes of this section:

29 (a) Evidence-based reading instruction means instruction in reading
30 that is in alignment with scientifically based reading research and does
31 not include the three-cueing system model of reading instruction; and

1 (b) Three-cueing system model of reading instruction is an approach
2 to foundational skills instruction that involves the use of three
3 different types of instructional cues which include semantic, syntactic,
4 and graphophonic.

5 (2)(a) The State Department of Education shall develop and implement
6 a professional learning system to help provide sustained professional
7 learning and training regarding evidence-based reading instruction for
8 teachers who teach children from four years of age through third grade at
9 an approved or accredited school and teachers employed by an early
10 childhood education program approved by the State Board of Education. The
11 professional learning system shall include information and tips for
12 teachers related to helping children and families work with local family
13 literacy centers to strengthen home and family literacy programs and
14 better instruct children in reading.

15 (b) Approved or accredited elementary schools and early childhood
16 education programs approved by the State Board of Education shall ensure
17 that teachers who teach children from four years of age through third
18 grade are aware of the professional learning system and are adequately
19 trained regarding evidence-based reading instruction to effectively
20 instruct students in reading.

21 (3) The State Department of Education shall work with educational
22 service units to provide regional coaches to approved or accredited
23 elementary schools to provide assistance and job-embedded training
24 relating to evidence-based reading instruction to teachers who teach
25 students in kindergarten through third grade.

26 (4) On or before September 30 of each year, the Commissioner of
27 Education shall file a report electronically with the Clerk of the
28 Legislature relating to the status and use of the professional learning
29 system implemented pursuant to this section.

30 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two million
31 dollars from the Education Future Fund for each fiscal year beginning

1 with fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2026-27 to the State
2 Department of Education to provide regional coaches and job-embedded
3 training relating to evidence-based reading instruction pursuant to
4 subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

5 (6) (1) The State Department of Education may provide technical
6 assistance as needed to assist school boards in carrying out the Nebraska
7 Reading Improvement Act.

8 (7) (2) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
9 regulations to carry out the act.

10 Sec. 14. Section 79-3301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2022, is amended to read:

12 79-3301 Sections 79-3301 to 79-3305 and sections 15 and 16 of this
13 act shall be known and may be cited as the Computer Science and
14 Technology Education Act.

15 Sec. 15. (1) The State Department of Education shall establish a
16 statewide computer science education expansion program to recruit, train,
17 and support teachers in computer science and technology education. Such
18 program shall include:

19 (a) Training for teachers seeking supplemental computer science
20 certification;

21 (b) Training designed to support the integration of computer science
22 and technology education into the instructional programs of elementary,
23 middle, and high schools;

24 (c) Support for schools and teachers in the development of computer
25 science instructional plans that are consistent with the academic content
26 standards for computer science and technology education adopted by the
27 State Board of Education; and

28 (d) Incentive and stipend payments for teachers who meet training,
29 certification, and teaching requirements as established by the State
30 Board of Education.

31 (2) The State Department of Education shall employ or contract with

1 computer science specialists to develop and deliver computer science
2 educator training. Such training shall be provided in a manner so that
3 every teacher in this state has reasonable access to the training.

4 (3) The State Department of Education shall annually submit a report
5 electronically to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature relating
6 to the statewide computer science education expansion program. Such
7 report shall include:

8 (a) The number of training opportunities held and the format of such
9 training;

10 (b) The number of teachers who received training;

11 (c) To the extent such information is available, the number of
12 teachers that became certified or received an endorsement in computer
13 science and technology education or began teaching a class in computer
14 science and technology education within three calendar months following
15 completion of training provided pursuant to this section; and

16 (d) The costs associated with such training for the fiscal year
17 covered by the report.

18 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
19 regulations to carry out this section.

20 Sec. 16. (1) The Computer Science and Technology Education Fund is
21 created. The fund shall be administered by the State Department of
22 Education and consist of money transferred by the Legislature, federal
23 funds, and gifts, grants, bequests, or other contributions or donations
24 from public or private entities that have been accepted by the State
25 Board of Education. The fund shall be used to provide computer science
26 and technology training, support, and incentive and stipend payments
27 pursuant to section 15 of this act. Any money in the fund available for
28 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
29 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
30 Investment Act. Any interest earned by the fund shall accrue to the fund.

31 (2)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer one million

1 dollars for fiscal year 2024-25 and one million dollars for fiscal year
2 2025-26 from the Education Future Fund to the Computer Science and
3 Technology Education Fund to provide computer science and technology
4 education training, support, and incentive and stipend payments pursuant
5 to section 15 of this act.

6 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer an additional
7 five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2024-25 and each fiscal
8 year thereafter from the Education Future Fund to the Computer Science
9 and Technology Education Fund contingent upon the receipt of matching
10 private funds of such amount. The State Department of Education shall
11 provide written notification to the State Treasurer relating to the
12 receipt of private funds that would trigger a state match.

13 Sec. 17. Section 85-3004, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
14 2022, is amended to read:

15 85-3004 (1)(a) The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
16 shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship to any eligible university
17 student who is enrolled in an eligible program of study in an amount not
18 to exceed:

19 (i) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who
20 is a transfer student; or

21 (ii) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section:

22 (A) Twenty-five thousand dollars per year for any scholarship
23 recipient who achieved a composite score on a standard college admission
24 test equivalent to a score of at least twenty-eight out of a maximum
25 score of thirty-six; or

26 (B) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who
27 achieved a composite score on a standard college admission test
28 equivalent to a score of at least twenty and less than twenty-eight out
29 of a maximum score of thirty-six.

30 (b) The Board of Regents shall allocate funds appropriated to the
31 board under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act between the university

1 campuses, determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the
2 university, receive and process applications for awards to individual
3 students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship recipients during
4 the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include (i) being a first-
5 time freshman who achieved a composite score on a standard college
6 admission test equivalent to a score of at least twenty out of a maximum
7 score of thirty-six or a transfer student and (ii) enrollment in an
8 eligible program of study.

9 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
10 means:

11 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study offered by the
12 University of Nebraska in mathematics, engineering, health care, and
13 computer information systems;~~and~~

14 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study
15 designated by the Department of Economic Development, in collaboration
16 with the Board of Regents, based on periodic reviews of workforce needs
17 in the state; and -

18 (iii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study in
19 special education.

20 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
21 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
22 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
23 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

24 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by a scholarship
25 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
26 board.

27 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
28 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
29 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
30 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
31 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible

1 program of study.

2 (5) The Board of Regents shall collect information on each
3 university scholarship recipient and shall report electronically to the
4 Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1 of each
5 year the following information for each eligible program of study at the
6 university in the current or prior academic year:

7 (a) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
8 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
9 in the program as of September 30 for the current academic year;

10 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
11 September 30 for the current academic year and the total number of such
12 scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in the program for such
13 academic year;

14 (c) The total number of students retained in the program from the
15 immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and a
16 comparison of the retention rates between scholarship recipients and
17 nonscholarship students;

18 (d) The number of students participating in an internship, an
19 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related
20 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of
21 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship
22 students;

23 (e) The total number of graduates for the immediately prior academic
24 year, the number of scholarship recipient graduates for such academic
25 year, and a comparison of the graduation rates for scholarship recipients
26 and nonscholarship students; and

27 (f) The number of graduates from the immediately prior academic year
28 who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within four
29 months after graduation and the average starting salary for such
30 graduates.

31 Sec. 18. Section 85-3103, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is

1 amended to read:

2 85-3103 The Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program is created.
3 For purposes of the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program:

4 (1) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
5 Education;

6 (2) Eligible institution means a not-for-profit college or
7 university which (a) is located in Nebraska, (b) is accredited by an
8 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
9 Education as determined to be acceptable by the State Board of Education,
10 (c) has a teacher education program, and (d) if a privately funded
11 college or university, has not opted out of the program pursuant to rules
12 and regulations;

13 (3) Eligible student means an individual who (a) is a full-time
14 student, (b) is enrolled in an eligible institution in an undergraduate
15 or a graduate teacher education program working toward his or her initial
16 certificate to teach in Nebraska, (c) if enrolled at a state-funded
17 eligible institution, is a resident student as described in section
18 85-502 or, if enrolled in a privately funded eligible institution, would
19 be deemed a resident student if enrolled in a state-funded eligible
20 institution, and (d) is a student majoring in a shortage area;

21 (4) Full-time student means, in the aggregate, the equivalent of a
22 student who in a twelve-month period is enrolled in twenty-four semester
23 credit hours for undergraduate students or eighteen semester credit hours
24 for graduate students of classroom, laboratory, clinical, practicum, or
25 independent study course work;

26 (5) Majoring in a shortage area means pursuing a degree which will
27 allow an individual to be properly endorsed to teach in a shortage area;

28 (6) Shortage area means a secular field of teaching for which there
29 is a shortage, as determined by the State Department of Education, of
30 properly endorsed teachers at the time the borrower first receives funds
31 pursuant to the program;~~and~~

1 (7) Student-teaching semester means a semester of full-time
2 enrollment for clinical practice which provides initial preparation for a
3 student enrolled in an eligible institution and pursuing a certificate to
4 teach that includes a culminating supervised experience to demonstrate
5 competence in the professional teaching role for which such student is
6 applying; and

7 (8) ~~(7)~~ Teacher education program means a program of study approved
8 by the State Board of Education pursuant to subdivision (5)(g) of section
9 79-318.

10 Sec. 19. Section 85-3105, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
11 amended to read:

12 85-3105 (1) The commission shall administer the Attracting
13 Excellence to Teaching Program either directly or by contracting with
14 public or private entities.

15 (2) To be eligible for the program, an eligible student shall:

16 (a) Graduate in the top quarter of his or her high school class or
17 have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a four-point
18 scale in an eligible institution;

19 (b) Agree to complete a teacher education program at an eligible
20 institution and to complete the major on which the applicant's
21 eligibility is based; and

22 (c) Commit to teach in an accredited or approved public or private
23 school in Nebraska upon (i) successful completion of the teacher
24 education program for which the applicant is applying to the Attracting
25 Excellence to Teaching Program and (ii) becoming certified pursuant to
26 sections 79-806 to 79-815.

27 (3) An eligible student ~~Eligible students~~ may apply on an annual
28 basis for a loan ~~loans~~ in an amount of not more than three thousand
29 dollars per year, except that an eligible student who is enrolling for a
30 student-teaching semester may apply for an additional loan of up to three
31 thousand dollars for the student-teaching semester and receive up to a

1 total of six thousand dollars for the year. Loans awarded to individual
2 students shall not exceed a cumulative period exceeding five consecutive
3 years. Loans shall only be awarded through an eligible institution. Loans
4 shall be funded pursuant to section 85-3112.

5 Sec. 20. Section 85-3112, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
6 amended to read:

7 85-3112 (1) The Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund is created. The
8 fund shall consist of transfers by the Legislature, transfers pursuant to
9 section 79-3501, and loan repayments, penalties, and interest payments
10 received in the course of administering the Attracting Excellence to
11 Teaching Program and the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program.

12 (2)(a) For all fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2024, the
13 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to two hundred fifty
14 thousand dollars of the funds transferred pursuant to section 79-3501 for
15 grants to teachers pursuant to the Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit
16 Education Grant Program.

17 (b) For all fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2024, the
18 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to five hundred thousand
19 dollars of the funds transferred pursuant to section 79-3501 exclusively
20 for loans to any eligible student who is enrolling in a student-teaching
21 semester during the award year pursuant to the Attracting Excellence to
22 Teaching Program. The funds shall be distributed to all eligible
23 institutions according to the distribution formula as determined by rule
24 and regulation. The eligible institutions shall act as agents of the
25 commission in the distribution of the funds to any eligible student for a
26 student-teaching semester for grants and loans to students enrolled in a
27 teacher education program for student-teaching semesters.

28 (c) Of the funds remaining in the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund
29 after the distributions pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this
30 subsection, for all fiscal years, the commission shall allocate on an
31 annual basis up to four hundred thousand dollars in the aggregate of the

1 funds to be distributed for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program
2 to all eligible institutions according to the distribution formula as
3 determined by rule and regulation. The eligible institutions shall act as
4 agents of the commission in the distribution of the funds for the
5 Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program to eligible students. The
6 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to eight hundred thousand
7 dollars of the remaining available funds to be distributed to eligible
8 students for the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program. Funding
9 amounts granted in excess of one million two hundred thousand dollars
10 shall be evenly divided for distribution between the two programs.

11 (3) Any money in the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund available for
12 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
13 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
14 Investment Act.

15 Sec. 21. Sections 18, 19, 20, and 22 of this act become operative
16 on July 1, 2024. Sections 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 23 of this
17 act become operative three calendar months after the adjournment of this
18 legislative session. The other sections of this act become operative on
19 their effective date.

20 Sec. 22. Original sections 85-3103, 85-3105, and 85-3112, Revised
21 Statutes Supplement, 2023, are repealed.

22 Sec. 23. Original section 38-3113, Reissue Revised Statutes of
23 Nebraska, sections 79-2607, 79-3301, and 85-3004, Revised Statutes
24 Cumulative Supplement, 2022, and section 79-1021, Revised Statutes
25 Supplement, 2023, are repealed.

26 Sec. 24. Original sections 79-8,146, 79-8,147, 79-8,148, 79-8,149,
27 79-8,150, and 79-8,151, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, and
28 section 79-8,114, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, are repealed.

29 Sec. 25. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
30 passed and approved according to law.