

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1056**

Introduced by Walz, 15.

Read first time January 08, 2024

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to create the School Construction
- 2 Assistance Task Force; to provide powers and duties; and to declare
- 3 an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1.   (1) The School Construction Assistance Task Force is  
2 created. The task force shall study issues and develop recommendations  
3 relating to school construction assistance.

4           (2)(a) The task force shall consist of the following members, who  
5 shall be appointed no later than August 1, 2024:

6           (i) A member of the Education Committee of the Legislature appointed  
7 by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

8           (ii) A member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature  
9 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

10          (iii) A member of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature appointed  
11 by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

12          (iv) A representative of the Governor's office appointed by the  
13 Governor;

14          (v) A superintendent of a school district with ten thousand or more  
15 students appointed by the Commissioner of Education;

16          (vi) A superintendent of a school district with more than one  
17 thousand students and fewer than ten thousand students appointed by the  
18 Commissioner of Education;

19          (vii) Two superintendents of school districts with one thousand or  
20 fewer students appointed by the Commissioner of Education;

21          (viii) A representative of the capital construction industry  
22 appointed by the Commissioner of Education; and

23          (ix) A representative of the statewide chamber of commerce appointed  
24 by the Governor.

25          (b) To the extent practicable, the members shall represent a  
26 geographic diversity across the state.

27          (3) The task force shall elect a chairperson from among the members.  
28 The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of  
29 the chairperson or a majority of the members of the task force. A  
30 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for  
31 the transaction of business. Official action by the task force requires

1 the approval of a majority of the members of the task force.

2 (4) On or before September 1, 2025, the task force shall  
3 electronically submit a report of recommendations relating to school  
4 construction assistance to the Education Committee of the Legislature,  
5 the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, and the Revenue  
6 Committee of the Legislature. Administrative and support staff for the  
7 task force shall be provided by the staff of the Education Committee of  
8 the Legislature, Revenue Committee of the Legislature, and Appropriations  
9 Committee of the Legislature as directed by the chairpersons of such  
10 committees. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to:

11 (a) How the state can support school construction project costs  
12 while maintaining and protecting local control;

13 (b) Different funding sources available from the state to use for  
14 school construction project financing;

15 (c) The feasibility of debt pooling to reduce interest rates  
16 relating to school construction projects;

17 (d) The feasibility of partnering with local political subdivisions  
18 to reduce school construction project costs;

19 (e) How to streamline the process of school construction projects;  
20 and

21 (f) The appropriate role of the State Department of Education in  
22 supporting capital infrastructure systems and providing technical  
23 assistance.

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