

# One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB519

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**Chairperson: Senator Dave Murman**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: January 30, 2023**

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

LB519 is intended to provide several solutions to the educator workforce shortage that Nebraska is facing.

LB519 does the following:

- Requires the Department of Education to pay for certification fees to assist with financial barriers to becoming a teacher. The bill covers the certification fees for the Initial Teaching Certificate, Standard Teaching Certificate, Professional Certificate and Military Certificate
- Increases the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program loan from \$3,000 to \$5,000. For teachers in school districts that are classified as very sparse, in a Community Eligibility Provision school, in a school building in which at least 40% of the formula students are poverty students or teaches in an accredited or approved private school in which at least 40% of the enrolled students are qualified for free lunches, payments shall be forgiven at \$10,000 as opposed to the current \$6,000.
- Provides retention payments to all public and non-public school staff. The Nebraska Department of Education will provide public school districts with appropriate dollars for the level of staff employed. Non-public school staff may apply to the Nebraska Department of Education for their retention payment.
- Creates the Student Teaching Assistance Act, which administers not more than \$8,500 per year for student-teaching semesters. The loan will be fully forgiven for teachers that teach in the State of Nebraska, over the course of four years, except if the borrower teaches full-time in a school district that is defined as "very sparse" or with a student population with at least 40% of students in poverty.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Lynne Walz**