

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB495

Hearing Date: Tuesday March 19, 2013
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Sullivan
One Liner: Change provisions relating to the Education Innovation Fund and early childhood grant reporting

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Avery, Cook, Davis, Haar, Kolowski, Scheer, Seiler, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents: Senator Kate Melody Hobson Jay Sears Jen Goettemoeller	Representing: Sullivan Nebraska Department of Education Nebraska State Education Association First Five Nebraska
---	---

Opponents:	Representing:
-------------------	----------------------

Neutral:	Representing:
-----------------	----------------------

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 495 would provide funds from the Education Innovation Fund to support early childhood education grant programs. The bill would allocate \$1.75 million in FY 2013-14, \$1.85 million in FY 2014-15, and \$1.95 million in FY 2015-16 from the Education Innovation Fund to the early childhood education grant program administered by the State Department of Education, which supports programs operated by school districts or educational service units for children between the ages of three and kindergarten eligibility. An additional \$1 million would be transferred from the Education Innovation Fund to the Early Childhood Endowment Cash Fund in FYs 2013-14 through 2015-16 to provide grants to public school programs that serve at-risk children from birth to age three. Allocations from the Education Innovation Fund in FYs 2013-14 through 2015-16 for the integrated student information system, the Center for Student Leadership and Extending Learning Act, multicultural education, and employment costs for individuals who investigate and prosecute alleged teacher and administrator certification violations would be eliminated. The bill contains intent language to replace these allocations with appropriations from the General Fund.

The bill would also clarify that a biannual report regarding early childhood grant programs pertains both to programs administered by the Department and the board of trustees of the early childhood education endowment. The bill would require the Legislature's Education Committee to hold a public hearing on the report. The bill would also clarify that the limit on the percentage of the appropriation to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program that can be withheld for evaluation and technical assistance under section 79-1103 applies to programs administered by the Department.

The bill would outright repeal section 79-1102.01, which authorized children who were eligible for kindergarten to enroll in early childhood programs for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years, provided the program was not receiving a state

early childhood grant or TEEOSA funding.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment revises the changes proposed to section 79-1103(4), found on page 17, line 20 through page 18, line 4 of the original bill. The amendment takes into account that the programs being referenced are early childhood education programs rather than grant programs.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson