

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1106**

Introduced by McGill, 26; Ashford, 20; Dubas, 34.

Read first time January 22, 2014

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend section 79-777, Revised  
2 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to change  
3 provisions relating to career academies; to provide for  
4 reimbursement of tuition and fees as prescribed; to  
5 create a fund; and to repeal the original section.  
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 79-777, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3           79-777 (1) Any school district, with the approval of the  
4 State Department of Education, may establish and operate a career  
5 academy. The purpose of a career academy is to provide students with  
6 a career-based educational curriculum. A school district may partner  
7 with another school district, an educational service unit, a learning  
8 community, a postsecondary educational institution, or a private  
9 entity in the establishment and operation of a career academy.

10           (2) A career academy established pursuant to subsection  
11 (1) of this section shall:

12           (a) Recruit students who seek a career-based curriculum,  
13 which curriculum shall be based on criteria determined by the  
14 department;

15           (b) Recruit and hire instructors based on their expertise  
16 in career-based education; and

17           (c) Provide a rigorous academic curriculum with a  
18 transition component to prepare students for the workforce,  
19 including, but not limited to, internships, job training, and skills  
20 training.

21           (3)(a) For each high school student participating in a  
22 dual-credit course that is required as part of an approved career  
23 academy as determined in rules and regulations of the department, the  
24 student or student's family may be reimbursed by the department for  
25 the tuition and fees associated with the course if the student

1 successfully completes the course with a grade of C or higher and  
2 submits the transcript and tuition statement from the accredited  
3 postsecondary educational institution issuing academic credit.

4 (b) If other scholarship funds are available to the  
5 student, the postsecondary educational institution issuing the  
6 academic credit for the dual-credit course shall assist the student  
7 in applying for, receiving, and utilizing such funds before the  
8 student may be reimbursed pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this  
9 section. Each postsecondary educational institution offering dual-  
10 credit courses shall assist students in accessing the reimbursement  
11 process.

12 (3)—(4) In addition to funding from the establishing  
13 school district or any of the district's partners, a career academy  
14 may also receive private donations for operating expenses.

15 (4)—(5) The department shall define standards and  
16 criteria for (a) the establishment, evaluation, and continuing  
17 approval of career academies, (b) career-based curriculum utilized by  
18 career academies, (c) the necessary data elements and collection of  
19 data pertaining to career academies, including, but not limited to,  
20 the number of students enrolled in a career academy and their grade  
21 levels, and (d) the establishment of advisory boards consisting of  
22 business and education representatives to provide guidance and  
23 direction for the operation of career academies.

24 (5)—(6) The State Board of Education may adopt and  
25 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

1           Sec. 2. The Career Academy Investment Fund is created.  
2   The fund shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature to  
3   reimburse high school students participating in dual-credit courses  
4   pursuant to section 79-777, beginning with the 2015-16 academic year.  
5   The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education shall  
6   administer the fund. Any money in the fund available for investment  
7   shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the  
8   Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds  
9   Investment Act.

10           Sec. 3. Original section 79-777, Revised Statutes  
11 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.