

# **One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB585**

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**Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: February 26, 2013**

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

LB 585 would amend the provisions of law governing learning communities. The proposed changes are as follows:

Reduce the number of members on a learning community coordinating council from 18 voting members to 6 voting members. The members would be selected from among school board members serving the school districts in a learning community and would represent 6 district subcouncils;

Allow the optional two-cent property tax a learning community may levy to be used to fund early childhood education programs for children in poverty and/or up to 50% of the cost for focus school or program capital projects approved by a learning community;

Eliminate the optional one-cent property tax a learning community may levy to pay for elementary learning center employees, for contracts with entities or individuals who are not employees of a learning community and for pilot projects;

Require school districts to pay for the transportation costs associated with students who transfer into a district pursuant to open enrollment provisions and who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or who contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of the school building ONLY if such students are transferring from a district with contiguous boundaries;

Permit multiple school districts to collaborate on focus programs or schools, magnet schools or pathway programs with or without the approval of a learning community coordinating council. If the focus school or program is part of the diversity plan approved by a learning community, the focus school or program would be eligible for a focus school or program allowance under TEEOSA.

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

**Senator Jim Smith**

