

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB595

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 17, 2015

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

LB 595 creates the Task Force on School Construction Assistance to examine issues of funding for school construction and to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a public education facility information data base by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The 10-member task force will include two members of the Legislature and members representing education, business, the local community, government, and at least one expert on capital construction.

The Task Force will make recommendations on capital infrastructure systems and funding sources to provide school districts with state financial assistance for qualifying construction projects. The recommendations will:

- Allow providers of public education to respond to evolving methods of delivering education and to the funding and maintaining of capital infrastructures;
- Reduce the reliance of school districts on property taxes for the retirement of bonded indebtedness; and,
- Consider the feasibility of debt pooling to reduce interest rates.

The task force will report their recommendations electronically to the Education and Appropriations Committees and the Nebraska Department of Education by November 1, 2016. LB 595 requests an appropriation of \$100,000 to fund the Task Force on School Construction Assistance and the public education facility information data base.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Al Davis