

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1089

Hearing Date: Monday February 03, 2020
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Vargas
One Liner: Require students to complete the FAFSA prior to graduation from high school

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Kolowski, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Walz
Nay:	1	Senator Groene
Absent:	1	Senator Linehan
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Brewer

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tony Vargas
Mike Baumgartner
Lazaro Spindola

Representing:

Introducer
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Latino American Commission

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB1089 would amend Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-729 (the statute dealing with high school graduation requirements) to require students to fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) before graduating from high school, unless that requirement was waived.

Beginning 2021-22, each student enrolled in a public high school would be required to submit a completed FAFSA before graduation.

This requirement may be waived by the Commissioner of Education if:

(a) The student's parent or legal guardian refuses to complete a FAFSA for the student, or

(b) A request is submitted by the student's school district stating that the student is not able to fulfill this requirement because of extenuating circumstances.

Explanation of amendments:

AM3176 makes several changes to the bill.

First, it specifies that a student can opt-out of the FAFSA graduation requirement either by (a) submitting a form signed by their parents, or by (b) being authorized by the school's principal.

Second, AM3176 tasks the Commissioner of Education with the creation of the opt-out form.

Third, AM3176 specifies that a student over the age of majority can submit such an opt-out form on his own behalf.

Fourth, AM3176 requires schools to submit anonymous, aggregate data to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). It also requires NDE to create and submit an annual report to the Clerk of the Legislature.

Fifth, it allows NDE to create rules necessary to implement this statute.

Mike Groene, Chairperson