

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1251

Chairperson: Senator Lynne Walz

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 28, 2022

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

The Equal Opportunity Scholarship for Students with Special Needs Act empowers the parents of children with special needs to pick the best learning environment for their child. Parents know what is best for their child and look to match their children's unique needs and abilities with the proper schools. This is especially true for the parents of exceptional children, who face a unique journey that requires empowerment, options, and collaboration.

A parent of a student with exceptional needs who received special education services under an Individualized Education Plan or a plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act at any point in the preceding semester at a public school may apply for the Equal Opportunity Scholarship.

The State Treasurer will supply the application form and ensure the transfer of funds while the Department of Education will determine the details of the application process.

The Equal Opportunity Scholarship will be funded by the Nebraska State Lottery Operation Trust Fund.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ben Hansen