

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB426

Hearing Date: Monday February 24, 2025
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Andersen
One Liner: Authorize an American flag education program and change provisions relating to the distribution of lottery funds used for education

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Murman, Conrad, Hughes, Juarez, Lonowski, Meyer, Sanders
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Hunt
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Bob Andersen
Ken Yount

Representing:
Opening Presenter
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:
Colby Coash
Luke Schroer
Spencer Rice

Representing:
NE Assn. of School Boards
Self
Self

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 426 amends section 79-724 to require that all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools offer a one-hour American flag education program as part of their social studies curriculum for students in grades 5-8. The program will teach topics such as the U.S. Flag Code, the 13 folds of the flag, flag etiquette, and its historical context. Schools may collaborate with local veterans' organizations to develop and present the program, and each student will receive a 3' x 5' American flag along with a flag etiquette booklet. The costs of the program will be funded through lottery funds or private donations. LB 426 also amends section 79-3501 to provide that flag education programs share the 3% of educational funds from state lottery money currently allocated for distance education incentives.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 586 is a white copy committee amendment that strikes the original sections and amends LB 426 to remove the



funding of the free flag program with lottery money and instead requires the Educational Service Unit (ESU) Coordinating Council, in coordination with the State Department of Education, to establish a grant program to help school districts purchase American flags made in the U.S. for flag education programs. Schools districts may apply to the ESU Coordinating Council for grants funded by the American Flag Education Grant Cash Fund, created by AM 586, which will be administered by the State Department of Education and receive contributions from legislative transfers, gifts, grants, and bequests.

Additionally, AM 586 requires the State Department of Education to contract with the ESU Coordinating Council to assist the the ESU Coordinating Council, which is required, in consultation and partnership with a statewide recognized veterans organization, to develop and provide online educational videos and materials about the American flag for use by schools. The amendment provides that it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$5,000 for this initiative from General Funds in the 2025-26 fiscal year to the Department of Education.

Dave Murman, Chairperson

