

## CHAPTER 414

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, AUTHORIZE PUBLIC  
GRANTS TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**Legislative Bill 1083**

INTRODUCED BY EUGENE T. MAHONEY, 5TH DISTRICT;  
TERRY CARPENTER, 48TH DISTRICT; JEROME WARNER,  
25TH DISTRICT; BILL K. BLOOM, 20TH DISTRICT; WILLIAM  
R. SKARDA, JR., 7TH DISTRICT

AN ACT for submission to the electors of an amendment to Article I, section 4, of the Constitution of Nebraska, relating to religious freedom; to provide legislative authority to make grants for students enrolled in nonpublic schools as prescribed; to provide for the submission of the proposed amendment to the electors at the general election in November, 1970; to provide for the manner of submission and form of ballot; and to provide the effective date thereof.

*Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,*

Section 1. That at the general election in November, 1970, there shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval the following amendment to Article I, section 4, of the Constitution of Nebraska, which is hereby proposed by the Legislature:

"Sec. 4. All persons have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship against his consent, and no preference shall be given by law to any religious society, nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required as a qualification for office, nor shall any person be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with oaths and affirmations. Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the legislature to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction, and in furtherance of such objectives



the Legislature may make grants for the benefit of students enrolled in nonpublic schools as reimbursement for the part of their tuition that is allocable to instruction in state-approved courses; *Provided*, that such reimbursement shall not exceed one-third of the per student cost in the public school district in which the student resides nor shall any plan of reimbursement breach the separation of church and state required by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

Sec. 2. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the manner prescribed by Article XVI, section 1, of the Constitution of Nebraska. The proposition for the submission of the proposed amendment shall be placed upon the ballot in the following form:

"Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to make grants for the benefit of students enrolled in nonpublic schools as reimbursement for the part of their tuition that is allocable to instruction in state-approved courses, which reimbursement shall not exceed one-third of the per student cost in the public school district in which the student resides nor shall any plan of reimbursement breach the separation of church and state required by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

☐ For

☐ Against"

Sec. 3. That the proposed amendment, if adopted, shall be in force and take effect immediately upon the completion of the canvass of the votes, at which time it shall be the duty of the Governor to proclaim it as a part of the Constitution of Nebraska.

Approved July 18, 1969.

---