

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1329

Introduced by Murman, 38.

Read first time January 17, 2024

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act; to
- 2 amend sections 85-3002, 85-3003, 85-3004, 85-3005, and 85-3006,
- 3 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to change provisions
- 4 relating to an award to a student attending a community college,
- 5 state college, private college, or the University of Nebraska under
- 6 the act; to change and provide definitions; to harmonize provisions;
- 7 and to repeal the original sections.
- 8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 85-3002, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2022, is amended to read:

3 85-3002 For purposes of the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act:

4 (1) Community college means a public postsecondary educational
5 institution which is part of the community college system and includes
6 all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of
7 Nebraska;

8 (2) First-time freshman means a student who enrolled in an eligible
9 program of study who has not previously been enrolled in a postsecondary
10 institution within three years immediately preceding the application for
11 a scholarship pursuant to the act and has not previously earned a
12 postsecondary credential except as a dual credit or early-college high
13 school student as the student's first enrollment in any postsecondary
14 institution after graduating from high school or receiving a diploma of
15 high school equivalency;

16 (3) Nebraska Career Scholarship means a scholarship awarded under
17 the act or a scholarship awarded as a Nebraska Career Scholarship
18 pursuant to Laws 2021, LB380, or Laws 2020, LB1008;

19 (4) Nonscholarship student means a student who has never been
20 awarded a Nebraska Career Scholarship for the applicable eligible program
21 of study;

22 (5) Private college means an accredited private nonprofit
23 institution of postsecondary education located within the State of
24 Nebraska;

25 (6) Scholarship recipient means a student who has been awarded a
26 Nebraska Career Scholarship; ~~and~~

27 (7) Standard college admission test means the national assessment
28 instrument that is also used as the standard college admission test
29 selected by the State Board of Education and administered to students in
30 the eleventh grade pursuant to subsection (9) of section 79-760.03; and -

31 (8) Transfer student means a student who has not previously earned a

1 postsecondary credential and has transferred into an eligible program of
2 study (a) from another postsecondary institution or (b) from another
3 program of study within the same postsecondary institution. A student
4 that previously earned a postsecondary credential, but only as a dual-
5 credit or early-college high school student, shall be considered a
6 transfer student if such student transferred into an eligible program of
7 study from another postsecondary institution or a program within the same
8 postsecondary institution directly following such student's early-college
9 high school enrollment.

10 Sec. 2. Section 85-3003, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2022, is amended to read:

12 85-3003 (1)(a) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges
13 shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship that does not exceed a maximum
14 of fifteen thousand dollars per year to any eligible state college
15 student who achieved a composite score on a standard college admission
16 test equivalent to a score of at least eighteen out of a maximum score of
17 thirty-six and who is enrolled in an eligible program of study.

18 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall
19 allocate funds appropriated to the board under the Nebraska Career
20 Scholarship Act between the state college campuses, determine the
21 eligibility of students enrolled in a state college, receive and process
22 applications for awards to individual students, and disperse funds
23 directly to scholarship recipients during the fiscal year. Eligibility
24 criteria shall include being a first-time freshman or a transfer student
25 and enrollment in an eligible program of study.

26 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
27 means:

28 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study at a state
29 college in rangeland management, industrial technology, criminal justice,
30 business administration, education, communication, or computer
31 information systems; and

1 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study
2 designated by the Department of Economic Development, in collaboration
3 with the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, based on
4 periodic reviews of workforce needs in the state.

5 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
6 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
7 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
8 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

9 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by a scholarship
10 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
11 board.

12 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
13 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
14 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
15 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
16 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible
17 program of study.

18 (5) The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall
19 collect information on each state college scholarship recipient and shall
20 report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on
21 or before December 1 of each year the following information for the each
22 eligible programs program of study at a state college in the current or
23 prior academic year:

24 (a) The total number of students enrolled in each eligible the
25 program of study in the immediately prior academic year and the total
26 number of students enrolled in each eligible the program of study as of
27 September 30 for the current academic year, based upon official fall
28 census data;

29 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in each eligible the
30 program of study as of September 30 for the current academic year and the
31 total number of such scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in

1 ~~each eligible the program of study for such academic year, based upon~~
2 ~~official fall census data;~~

3 (c) The total number of newly awarded scholarship recipients
4 ~~students retained across all eligible programs of study in the program~~
5 ~~from the immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and~~
6 ~~a comparison of the retention rates between those of the newly awarded~~
7 ~~scholarship recipients and the institution's overall first to second year~~
8 ~~retention rate reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data~~
9 ~~System for the same year scholarship recipients and nonscholarship~~
10 ~~students;~~

11 ~~(d) The number of students participating in an internship, an~~
12 ~~apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related~~
13 ~~field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of~~
14 ~~participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship~~
15 ~~students;~~

16 ~~(d) (e) The total number of scholarship recipients who graduated~~
17 ~~during graduates for the immediately prior academic year, the number of~~
18 ~~scholarship recipient graduates for such academic year, and a comparison~~
19 ~~of the four-year graduation rates between the for scholarship recipients~~
20 ~~who graduated and the overall institution's four-year graduate rate~~
21 ~~reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System for the~~
22 ~~same year and nonscholarship students; and~~

23 ~~(e) (f) The number and percent of scholarship recipients who~~
24 ~~graduated during graduates from the immediately prior calendar academic~~
25 ~~year who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within~~
26 ~~four months after graduation and the average starting salary for such~~
27 ~~graduates.~~

28 Sec. 3. Section 85-3004, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
29 2022, is amended to read:

30 85-3004 (1)(a) The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
31 shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship to any eligible university

1 student who is enrolled in an eligible program of study in an amount not
2 to exceed:

3 (i) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who
4 is a transfer student; or

5 (ii) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section:

6 (A) Twenty-five thousand dollars per year for any scholarship
7 recipient who achieved a composite score on a standard college admission
8 test equivalent to a score of at least twenty-eight out of a maximum
9 score of thirty-six; or

10 (B) Ten thousand dollars per year for any scholarship recipient who
11 achieved a composite score on a standard college admission test
12 equivalent to a score of at least twenty and less than twenty-eight out
13 of a maximum score of thirty-six.

14 (b) The Board of Regents shall allocate funds appropriated to the
15 board under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act between the university
16 campuses, determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the
17 university, receive and process applications for awards to individual
18 students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship recipients during
19 the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include (i) being a first-
20 time freshman who achieved a composite score on a standard college
21 admission test equivalent to a score of at least twenty out of a maximum
22 score of thirty-six or a transfer student and (ii) enrollment in an
23 eligible program of study.

24 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
25 means:

26 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study offered by the
27 University of Nebraska in mathematics, engineering, health care, and
28 computer information systems; and

29 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study
30 designated by the Department of Economic Development, in collaboration
31 with the Board of Regents, based on periodic reviews of workforce needs

1 in the state.

2 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
3 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
4 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
5 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

6 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by a scholarship
7 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
8 board.

9 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
10 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
11 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
12 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
13 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible
14 program of study.

15 (5) The Board of Regents shall collect information on each
16 university scholarship recipient and shall report electronically to the
17 Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1 of each
18 year the following information for the each eligible programs program of
19 study at the university in the current or prior academic year:

20 (a) The total number of students enrolled in each eligible the
21 program of study in the immediately prior academic year and the total
22 number of students enrolled in each eligible the program of study as of
23 September 30 for the current academic year, based upon official fall
24 census data;

25 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in each eligible the
26 program of study as of September 30 for the current academic year and the
27 total number of such scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in
28 each eligible the program of study for such academic year, based upon
29 official fall census data;

30 (c) The total number of newly awarded scholarship recipients
31 students retained across all eligible programs of study in the program

1 from the immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and
2 a comparison of the retention rates between those of the newly awarded
3 scholarship recipients and the institution's overall first to second year
4 retention rate reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data
5 System for the same year ~~scholarship recipients and nonscholarship~~
6 ~~students;~~

7 ~~(d) The number of students participating in an internship, an~~
8 ~~apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related~~
9 ~~field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of~~
10 ~~participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship~~
11 ~~students;~~

12 ~~(d) (e) The total number of scholarship recipients who graduated~~
13 ~~during graduates for the immediately prior academic year, the number of~~
14 ~~scholarship recipient graduates for such academic year, and a comparison~~
15 ~~of the four-year graduation rates between the for scholarship recipients~~
16 ~~who graduated and the overall institution's four-year graduate rate~~
17 ~~reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System for the~~
18 ~~same year and nonscholarship students; and~~

19 ~~(e) (f) The number and percent of scholarship recipients who~~
20 ~~graduated during graduates from the immediately prior calendar academic~~
21 ~~year who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within~~
22 ~~four months after graduation and the average starting salary for such~~
23 ~~graduates.~~

24 Sec. 4. Section 85-3005, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
25 2022, is amended to read:

26 85-3005 (1)(a) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
27 Education ~~Department of Economic Development~~, in collaboration with the
28 community colleges, shall award a Nebraska Career Scholarship that does
29 not exceed a maximum of fifteen ~~five~~ thousand dollars per year to any
30 eligible community college student who is enrolled in an eligible program
31 of study in an identified shortage area or skilled trade that meets the

1 workforce needs of the state.

2 (b) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, in
3 consultation with the State Department of Education, the Department of
4 Labor, the Department of Economic Development, and any advisory committee
5 established by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
6 for such purpose, Department of Economic Development shall identify
7 shortage areas and skilled trades that meet workforce needs for purposes
8 of this section and shall periodically review and revise the
9 identification of such shortage areas and skilled trades.

10 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study means
11 a program of study offered by a community college in a shortage area or
12 skilled trade identified pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection.

13 (d) Each community college area, acting as an agent of the state,
14 shall determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the community
15 college, receive and process applications for awards to individual
16 students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship recipients during
17 the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include being a first-time
18 freshman or a transfer student and enrollment in an eligible program of
19 study.

20 (2) Each scholarship recipient enrolled in more than a one-semester
21 or sixteen-credit-hour program of study shall register with the
22 appropriate campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship,
23 apprenticeship, clinical position, experiential learning activity, or
24 employment in a major-related field prior to completion of the student's
25 eligible program of study.

26 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by the scholarship
27 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
28 board.

29 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
30 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
31 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such

1 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
2 scholarship renewal after three years of participation in such eligible
3 program of study.

4 (5) Each community college area shall collect information on each
5 scholarship recipient who has been awarded a Nebraska Career Scholarship
6 by such community college area and shall share such information with the
7 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education ~~Department of~~
8 ~~Economic Development~~.

9 (6) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
10 ~~Department of Economic Development~~ shall report electronically to the
11 Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1 of each
12 year the following information:

13 (a) For each eligible program of study at a community college in the
14 current or prior academic year:

15 (i) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
16 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
17 in the program as of the most recent census date for the community
18 college area; and

19 (ii) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
20 the most recent census date for the community college area; ~~and~~

21 ~~(iii) The number of students participating in an internship, an~~
22 ~~apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related~~
23 ~~field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of~~
24 ~~participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship~~
25 ~~students;~~

26 (b) The first to second year retention rate of new scholarship
27 recipients for all eligible programs of study from the immediately prior
28 academic year as compared to the institution's overall first to second
29 year retention rate as reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education
30 Data System for the same year ~~total number of first-time freshman~~
31 ~~scholarship recipients retained in year two of the scholarship~~

1 ~~recipient's eligible program of study and a comparison of the retention~~
2 ~~rate for first-time freshman scholarship recipients to the overall~~
3 ~~retention rate for first-time freshman students;~~

4 (c) The total number of first-time freshman scholarship recipients
5 who complete the program of study by earning the certificate, diploma, or
6 degree that signifies completion and a comparison of the on-time
7 completion rate for scholarship recipients to the overall on-time
8 completion rate for all first-time freshman students; and

9 (d) The number of scholarship recipients obtaining employment in the
10 state within five fiscal quarters of completion of an eligible program of
11 study using Department of Labor data. ~~;~~ and

12 ~~(e) The average salary of scholarship recipients, as determined by~~
13 ~~the Department of Labor, for the fifth fiscal quarter following~~
14 ~~completion.~~

15 (7) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
16 ~~Department of Economic Development~~ shall allocate to community colleges
17 the amount appropriated to the commission ~~department~~ to carry out this
18 section. The commission ~~department~~ shall establish a separate budget
19 subprogram for such allocation.

20 Sec. 5. Section 85-3006, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
21 2022, is amended to read:

22 85-3006 (1)(a) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
23 Education ~~Department of Economic Development~~, in collaboration with
24 private colleges that elect to participate, shall award a Nebraska Career
25 Scholarship that does not exceed a maximum of ten thousand dollars per
26 year to any private college student who achieved a composite score on a
27 standard college admission test equivalent to a score of at least
28 eighteen out of a maximum score of thirty-six or who had a high school
29 grade-point average of 3.0 or greater on a four-point scale and who is
30 enrolled in an eligible program of study.

31 (b) Each participating private college, acting as an agent of the

1 state, shall determine the eligibility of students enrolled in the
2 private college, receive and process applications for awards to
3 individual students, and disperse funds directly to scholarship
4 recipients during the fiscal year. Eligibility criteria shall include
5 being a first-time freshman or a transfer student and enrollment in an
6 eligible program of study.

7 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible program of study
8 means:

9 (i) Through academic year 2023-24, a program of study at a private
10 college in mathematics, health care, and computer information systems;
11 and

12 (ii) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, a program of study in
13 shortage areas designated by the Coordinating Commission for
14 Postsecondary Education, in consultation with the State Department of
15 Education, the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic
16 Development, and any advisory committee established by the Coordinating
17 Commission for Postsecondary Education for such purpose, Department of
18 Economic Development based on periodic reviews of workforce needs in the
19 state.

20 (2) Each scholarship recipient shall register with the appropriate
21 campus office to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship,
22 clinical position, or employment in a major-related field prior to
23 completion of the student's eligible program of study.

24 (3) A Nebraska Career Scholarship may be used by the scholarship
25 recipient for tuition, fees, required tools and equipment, and room and
26 board.

27 (4) Each scholarship awarded under this section shall be
28 automatically renewed on an annual basis if the student remains enrolled
29 in good standing in the eligible program of study for which such
30 scholarship was awarded, except that no student shall receive a
31 scholarship renewal after four years of participation in such eligible

1 program of study.

2 (5) Each participating private college shall collect information on
3 each scholarship recipient who has been awarded a Nebraska Career
4 Scholarship by such private college and shall share such information with
5 the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education ~~Department of~~
6 ~~Economic Development~~.

7 (6) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
8 ~~Department of Economic Development~~ shall report electronically to the
9 Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1 of each
10 year the following information for each eligible program of study at a
11 private college in the current or prior academic year:

12 (a) The total number of students enrolled in the program in the
13 immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled
14 in the program as of September 30 for the current academic year;

15 (b) The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of
16 September 30 for the current academic year and the total number of such
17 scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in the program for such
18 academic year;

19 (c) The total number of students retained in the program and a
20 comparison of the retention rates between scholarship recipients and
21 nonscholarship students;

22 (d) The number of students participating in an internship, an
23 apprenticeship, a clinical position, or employment in a major-related
24 field during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of
25 participation rates for scholarship recipients and nonscholarship
26 students;

27 (e) The total number of graduates for the immediately prior academic
28 year, the number of scholarship recipient graduates for such academic
29 year, and a comparison of the graduation rates for scholarship recipients
30 and nonscholarship students; and

31 (f) The number of graduates from the immediately prior academic year

1 who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state within four
2 months after graduation and the average starting salary for such
3 graduates.

4 (7) The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
5 ~~Department of Economic Development~~ shall allocate the amount appropriated
6 to the department to carry out this section to private colleges that
7 elect to participate under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act. The
8 department shall establish a separate budget subprogram for such
9 allocations.

10 Sec. 6. Original sections 85-3002, 85-3003, 85-3004, 85-3005, and
11 85-3006, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.