

AMENDMENTS TO LB705

(Amendments to E & R amendments, ER30)

Introduced by Murman, 38.

1 1. Strike sections 24, 41, 42, 51, and 91 and insert the following
2 new sections:

3 Sec. 24. Section 79-8,137.05, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2022, is amended to read:

5 ~~79-8,137.05~~ (1) The Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund is created. The
6 fund shall consist of transfers ~~appropriations~~ by the Legislature,
7 transfers pursuant to section 1 of this act ~~9-812~~, and loan repayments,
8 penalties, and interest payments received in the course of administering
9 the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and the Enhancing
10 Excellence in Teaching Program.

11 ~~(2)~~ (2)(a) For all fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2024,
12 the commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to two hundred fifty
13 thousand dollars of the funds transferred pursuant to section 1 of this
14 act for grants to teachers pursuant to the Career-Readiness and Dual-
15 Credit Education Grant Program.

16 (b) For all fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2024, the
17 commission shall allocate on an annual basis up to five hundred thousand
18 dollars of the funds transferred pursuant to section 1 of this act for
19 grants and loans to students enrolled in a teacher education program for
20 student-teaching semesters.

21 (c) Of the funds remaining in the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund
22 after the distributions pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this
23 subsection, for ~~For~~ all fiscal years, the commission ~~department~~ shall
24 allocate on an annual basis up to four hundred thousand dollars in the
25 aggregate of the funds to be distributed for the Attracting Excellence to
26 Teaching Program to all eligible institutions according to the

1 distribution formula as determined by rule and regulation. The eligible
2 institutions shall act as agents of the commission ~~department~~ in the
3 distribution of the funds for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching
4 Program to eligible students. The commission ~~department~~ shall allocate on
5 an annual basis up to eight hundred thousand dollars of the remaining
6 available funds to be distributed to eligible students for the Enhancing
7 Excellence in Teaching Program. Funding amounts granted in excess of one
8 million two hundred thousand dollars shall be evenly divided for
9 distribution between the two programs.

10 (3) Any money in the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund available for
11 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
12 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
13 Investment Act.

14 Sec. 41. (1) On or before January 15 of each school fiscal year, a
15 school district with expected special education expenditures that total
16 (a) at least fifty thousand dollars annually or (b) one-half percent or
17 more of such school district's annual budget, whichever is greater, may
18 submit an application as prescribed by the State Department of Education
19 to the department for a payment from the Education Future Fund to cover
20 an extraordinary increase in special education expenditures pursuant to
21 the requirements of this section. Such application shall include the
22 special education expenditures of the applicant school district as of the
23 immediately preceding December 31 for the school fiscal year in which the
24 application is submitted.

25 (2) The department shall divide the special education expenditures
26 for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year
27 in which an application is submitted by two and multiply the result by
28 one hundred seven percent for each applicant school district.

29 (3) Each applicant school district shall qualify for a maximum
30 payment equal to the difference of the special education expenditures for
31 the current school fiscal year submitted pursuant to subsection (1) of

1 this section minus the amount calculated pursuant to subsection (2) of
2 this section for such school district for such school fiscal year.

3 (4) The department shall make a payment to each applicant school
4 district on or before January 31 for the school fiscal year in which the
5 application is submitted. Such payment shall equal the maximum payment
6 determined pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, except that if the
7 sum of all maximum payments for applicant school districts for such
8 school fiscal year exceeds the available balance for such purpose in the
9 Education Future Fund, each payment shall be reduced proportionally so
10 that the sum of all payments for applicant school districts for such
11 school fiscal year equals the available balance for such purpose in the
12 fund.

13 Sec. 42. The department shall make a payment to each qualifying
14 applicant school district from the Education Future Fund pursuant to
15 section 41 of this act for an extraordinary increase in special education
16 expenditures. The department shall reimburse the fund for each such
17 payment from the appropriation for special education and support services
18 reimbursements pursuant to section 79-1142 in the school fiscal year
19 immediately following the school fiscal year in which each such payment
20 was made. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate up to two
21 million five hundred thousand dollars from the Education Future Fund for
22 fiscal year 2023-24 and each year thereafter for payments to qualifying
23 applicants.

24 Sec. 51. (1) The State Department of Education shall create and
25 administer the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of
26 the program is to help recruit and increase the number of teachers
27 throughout the state by utilizing an apprenticeship model for training.
28 The program shall provide for an applicant who successfully completes the
29 program to obtain a certificate or permit issued by the Commissioner of
30 Education. The department may work with standard institutions of higher
31 education as defined in section 79-807, the Department of Labor, and

1 other entities the State Department of Education deems necessary to
2 develop and implement the program.

3 (2) An individual may apply for participation in the program if the
4 individual (a) is an employee of a school approved or accredited by the
5 State Department of Education or (b) has a contract to begin working for
6 a school approved or accredited by the State Department of Education at
7 the start of the school year for which the individual is applying for
8 participation in the program.

9 (3) The department shall determine requirements for completion of
10 the program by an applicant. The requirements shall include, but need not
11 be limited to:

12 (a) The completion of a one-year apprenticeship in a classroom;

13 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a standard institution of higher
14 education; and

15 (c) Successful completion of a subject area examination and pedagogy
16 examination created by the department as part of the program.

17 (4) The Commissioner of Education shall issue a certificate to teach
18 as set forth pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted and
19 promulgated pursuant to sections 79-806 to 79-815 to an applicant who
20 successfully completes the program.

21 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one million
22 dollars for fiscal year 2023-24 and each fiscal year thereafter from the
23 Education Future Fund to the State Department of Education for the
24 program.

25 Sec. 89. Section 79-1021, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as
26 amended by section 23, Legislative Bill 818, One Hundred Eighth
27 Legislature, First Session, 2023, is amended to read:

28 79-1021 (1) The Education Future Fund is created. The fund shall be
29 administered by the department and shall consist of money transferred to
30 the fund by the Legislature. Any money in the fund available for
31 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to

1 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
2 Investment Act.

3 (2) The fund shall be used only for the following purposes, in order
4 of priority:

5 (a) To fully fund equalization aid under the Tax Equity and
6 Educational Opportunities Support Act;

7 (b) To fund special education supplemental aid under the Tax Equity
8 and Educational Opportunities Support Act;

9 (c) To fund foundation aid under the Tax Equity and Educational
10 Opportunities Support Act;

11 (d) To increase funding for school districts in a way that results
12 in direct property tax relief, which means a dollar-for-dollar
13 replacement of property taxes by a state funding source;

14 (e) To provide funding for a grant program created by the
15 Legislature to address teacher turnover rates and keep existing teachers
16 in classrooms;

17 (f) To provide funding to increase career and technical educational
18 classroom opportunities for students. Such funding must provide students
19 with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary
20 to succeed in future careers; ~~and~~

21 (g) To provide funding for a grant program created by the
22 Legislature to provide students the opportunity to have a mentor who will
23 continuously engage with the student directly to aid in the student's
24 professional growth and give ongoing support and encouragement to the
25 student; ~~and~~

26 (h) To provide funding for extraordinary increases in special
27 education expenditures to allow school districts with large, unexpected
28 special education expenditures to more easily meet the needs of all
29 students; and

30 (i) To provide funding to help recruit teachers throughout the state
31 by utilizing apprenticeships through a teacher apprenticeship program and

1 an alternative certification process.

2 (3)(a) The State Treasurer shall transfer one billion dollars from
3 the General Fund to the Education Future Fund in fiscal year 2023-24 on
4 such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget administrator of
5 the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

6 (b) The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty million
7 dollars from the General Fund to the Education Future Fund in fiscal year
8 2024-25, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget
9 administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative
10 Services.

11 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that two hundred fifty
12 million dollars be transferred from the General Fund to the Education
13 Future Fund in fiscal year 2025-26 and each fiscal year thereafter.

14 Sec. 92. Section 79-1142, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2022, is amended to read:

16 79-1142 (1) Level I services refers to services provided to children
17 with disabilities who require an aggregate of not more than three hours
18 per week of special education services and support services and includes
19 all administrative, diagnostic, consultative, and vocational-adjustment
20 counselor services.

21 (2) The total allowable reimbursable cost for support services shall
22 not exceed a percentage, established by the State Board of Education, of
23 the school district's or approved cooperative's total allowable
24 reimbursable cost for all special education programs and support
25 services. The percentage established by the board for support services
26 shall not exceed the difference of ten percent minus the percentage of
27 the appropriations for special education approved by the Legislature set
28 aside for reimbursements for support services pursuant to subsection (5)
29 of this section.

30 (3) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, for For
31 special education and support services provided in each school fiscal

1 year, the department shall reimburse each school district in the
2 following school fiscal year a pro rata amount determined by the
3 department. The reimbursement percentage shall be the ratio of the
4 difference of the appropriations for special education approved by the
5 Legislature minus the amounts set aside pursuant to subsection (5) of
6 this section divided by the total allowable excess costs for all special
7 education programs and support services.

8 (4) Cooperatives of school districts or educational service units
9 shall also be eligible for reimbursement for cooperative programs
10 pursuant to this section if such cooperatives or educational service
11 units have complied with the reporting and approval requirements of
12 section 79-1155 for cooperative programs which were offered in the
13 preceding school fiscal year. The payments shall be made by the
14 department to the school district of residence, cooperative of school
15 districts, or educational service unit each school year in a minimum of
16 seven payments between the fifth and twentieth day of each month
17 beginning in December. Additional payments may be made based upon
18 additional valid claims submitted. The State Treasurer shall, between the
19 fifth and twentieth day of each month, notify the Director of
20 Administrative Services of the amount of funds available in the General
21 Fund for payment purposes. The director shall, upon receiving such
22 certification, draw warrants against funds appropriated.

23 (5) Residential settings described in subdivision (10)(c) of section
24 79-215 shall be reimbursed for the educational services, including
25 special education services and support services in an amount determined
26 pursuant to the average per pupil cost of the service agency.
27 Reimbursements pursuant to this section shall be made from funds set
28 aside for such purpose within sixty days after receipt of a reimbursement
29 request submitted in the manner required by the department and including
30 any documentation required by the department for educational services
31 that have been provided, except that if there are not any funds available

1 for the remainder of the state fiscal year for such reimbursements, the
2 reimbursement shall occur within thirty days after the beginning of the
3 immediately following state fiscal year. The department may audit any
4 required documentation and subtract any payments made in error from
5 future reimbursements. The department shall set aside separate amounts
6 from the appropriations for special education approved by the Legislature
7 for reimbursements pursuant to this subsection for students receiving
8 special education services and for students receiving support services
9 for each state fiscal year. The amounts set aside for each purpose shall
10 be based on estimates of the reimbursements to be requested during the
11 state fiscal year and shall not be less than the total amount of
12 reimbursements requested in the prior state fiscal year plus any unpaid
13 requests from the prior state fiscal year.

14 (6) For each school district that received a payment pursuant to the
15 Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Expenditures Act in the
16 school fiscal year for which special education expenditures were
17 reimbursed pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, an amount equal to
18 such payment shall be subtracted from the reimbursement calculated
19 pursuant to subsection (3) of this section and such amount shall be
20 transferred to the Education Future Fund.

21 2. On page 13, line 18, strike the new matter; in line 19 reinstate
22 the stricken matter; and in lines 20 through 23 strike the new matter.

23 3. On page 33, line 26, strike "use funds" and insert "appropriate
24 ten million dollars".

25 4. On page 127, line 23, strike ", outcomes," and insert "and
26 outcomes".

27 5. On page 130, lines 3, 6, and 11, strike "department" and insert
28 "State Department of Education".

29 6. On page 132, after line 20 insert the following new subsection:

30 "(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede a
31 parent's ability to exercise any rights such parent has under a school

1 district policy established pursuant to section 79-531."; in line 24
2 strike "92,"; and in line 27 after the sixth comma insert "93,".

3 7. Correct the operative date and repealer sections so that section
4 24 added by this amendment becomes operative on July 1, 2024, and
5 sections 41, 42, 51, 89, and 92 added by this amendment become operative
6 on their effective date with the emergency clause.

7 8. Renumber the remaining sections and correct internal references
8 accordingly.