

AMENDMENTS TO LB705

(Amendments to E & R amendments, ER30)

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

1 1. Strike section 79 and insert the following new section:

2 Sec. 79. Section 79-729, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2022, is amended to read:

4 79-729 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance of assuring  
5 that all persons who graduate from Nebraska high schools possess certain  
6 minimum levels of knowledge, skills, and understanding. Each high school  
7 student shall complete a minimum of two hundred high school credit hours  
8 prior to graduation. At least eighty percent of the minimum credit hours  
9 shall be core curriculum courses prescribed by the State Board of  
10 Education.

11 (2) For students attending a public school: ~~τ~~

12 (a) ~~Beginning~~ ~~beginning~~ in school year 2023-24, at least five of the  
13 minimum credit hours shall be a high school course in personal finance or  
14 financial literacy; ~~τ~~ and

15 (b) ~~Beginning~~ ~~beginning~~ in school year ~~2027-28~~ 2026-27, at least  
16 five of the minimum credit hours shall include ~~be a high school course or~~  
17 ~~the equivalent of a one-semester high school course in~~ computer science  
18 and technology education as required under section 79-3304.

19 (3)(a) Beginning in school year 2024-25, each public high school  
20 student shall complete and submit to the United States Department of  
21 Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to graduating  
22 from such high school except as otherwise provided in this subsection.

23 (b) A public high school student shall not be required to comply  
24 with subdivision (3)(a) of this section if:

25 (i) A parent or legal guardian of or a person standing in loco  
26 parentis to such student signs and submits the appropriate form

1 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subdivision (3)  
2 (c) of this section indicating that such parent, legal guardian, or  
3 person standing in loco parentis authorizes such student to decline to  
4 complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

5 (ii) The school principal or the school principal's designee signs  
6 and submits the appropriate form prescribed by the Commissioner of  
7 Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this section authorizing such  
8 student to decline to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal  
9 Student Aid for good cause as determined by the school principal or the  
10 school principal's designee; or

11 (iii) A student who is nineteen years of age or older or is an  
12 emancipated minor signs and submits the appropriate form prescribed by  
13 the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this  
14 section stating that such student declines to complete and submit a Free  
15 Application for Federal Student Aid.

16 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall prescribe the forms to be  
17 used by each public high school for purposes of compliance with  
18 subdivision (3)(b) of this section. Such forms shall be made available:

19 (i) By each public high school to students, parents and legal  
20 guardians of students, and persons standing in loco parentis to students;  
21 and

22 (ii) In English, Spanish, and any other language spoken by a  
23 majority of the students enrolled in any English learner program at such  
24 public high school.

25 (d) The school principal or the school principal's designee of each  
26 public high school shall provide such compliance information to the  
27 school district or governing authority for such public high school and to  
28 the State Department of Education without disclosing, for any student who  
29 has complied with the requirements of this subsection, personally  
30 identifiable information distinguishing whether such compliance was  
31 pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) or (b) of this section. Such school

1 principal or school principal's designee shall provide separately the  
2 aggregate number of students who have not complied with this subsection,  
3 who complied pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this section, and who  
4 complied pursuant to subdivision (3)(b) of this section, unless otherwise  
5 prohibited by federal or state law regarding the confidentiality of  
6 student educational information.

7 (e) On or before December 31, 2025, and on or before December 31 of  
8 each year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall electronically  
9 submit a report with the information received by the State Department of  
10 Education pursuant to subdivision (3)(d) of this section to the Clerk of  
11 the Legislature.

12 (4) The State Board of Education may establish recommended statewide  
13 graduation guidelines.

14 (5) This section does not apply to high school students whose  
15 individualized education programs prescribe a different course of  
16 instruction. ~~This section does not prohibit the governing board of any~~  
17 ~~high school from prescribing specific graduation guidelines as long as~~  
18 ~~such guidelines do not conflict with this section.~~

19 (6) For purposes of this section, high school means grades nine  
20 through twelve and credit hour shall be defined by appropriate rules and  
21 regulations of the State Board of Education but shall not be less than  
22 the amount of credit given for successful completion of a course which  
23 meets at least one period per week for at least one semester.

24 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate rules  
25 and regulations as necessary to implement this section. Such rules and  
26 regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

27 (a) A timeline for the distribution of the Free Application for  
28 Federal Student Aid and the forms prescribed pursuant to subdivision (3)  
29 (c) of this section by public high schools and for the submission of the  
30 Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the forms prescribed  
31 pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this section;

1           (b) Standards regarding the information that a public high school  
2 must provide to students regarding:

3           (i) Instructions for filling out the Free Application for Federal  
4 Student Aid;

5           (ii) The options available to a student under subdivision (3)(b) of  
6 this section if a student wishes to decline to complete and submit a Free  
7 Application for Federal Student Aid; and

8           (iii) The method by which a student shall provide proof to the  
9 public high school that such student has completed and submitted the Free  
10 Application for Federal Student Aid or a form prescribed pursuant to  
11 subdivision (3)(c) of this section; and

12           (c) A requirement for each public high school to report the number  
13 of students who completed and submitted a Free Application for Federal  
14 Student Aid and the number of students who instead submitted a form  
15 prescribed pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of this section.