

Legislative Update Provided to the Education Council, 4/16/2014

LB 262 Sec. 1(4) *[excerpt]* The Legislature finds and declares that the sharing of student data, records, and information among school districts, educational service units, learning communities, and the State Department of Education, to the fullest extent practicable and permitted by law, is vital to advancing education in this state. Whenever applicable law permits the sharing of such student data, records, and information, each school district, educational service unit, and learning community shall comply unless otherwise prohibited by law. The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations providing for and requiring the uniform sharing of student data, records, and information among school districts, educational service units, learning communities, and the department.

[Current Status: Passed 43-0-6 and approved by the Governor, 4/3/2013]

LB 497. Sec. 3. *[excerpt]* The Education Committee of the Legislature shall conduct a study of potential uses of the funds dedicated to education from proceeds of the lottery conducted pursuant to the State Lottery Act. The committee shall submit a report electronically on the findings and any recommendations to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2014. Factors the study shall consider, but not be limited to, include: (1) The educational priorities of the state; (2) What types of educational activities are suited to being funded by state lottery funds as opposed to state general funds; (3) Whether state lottery funds should be used for significant projects requiring temporary funding or to sustain ongoing activities; and (4) Whether periodic reviews of the use of lottery funds for education should be scheduled.

[Current Status: Passed 42-0-7 and approved by the Governor, 5/29/2013]

LB 1103. Sec. 2. *[excerpt]* The Education Committee of the Legislature shall conduct a strategic planning process to create the statewide vision for education in Nebraska described in section 1 of this act which shall include aspirational goals, visionary objectives, meaningful priorities, and practical strategies. The committee or subcommittees thereof may conduct meetings, work sessions, and focus groups with individuals and representatives of educational interests, taxpayer groups, the business community, or any other interested entities. The committee shall also hold at least three public hearings to receive testimony from the general public in locations that represent a variety of educational situations. The committee shall submit a report regarding such process electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2014.

[Current Status: Passed 43-0-6 and approved by the Governor, 4/2/2014]

LR 519. Introduced by Scheer, District 19.

[excerpt] PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study and evaluate current course offerings for high school students in Nebraska. The study will assess the 249 school districts in the state to determine what courses are offered to high school students in each district. Further, the study will document and assess current use of distance learning technology and innovations to expand course offerings to students in Nebraska. The study will also determine current collaboration among the districts and what opportunities exist to expand collaboration for the benefit of students. Finally, the study will evaluate digital learning opportunities for all students in K-12 throughout Nebraska and review national trends and best practices in the use of distance learning and school district collaboration.

[Current Status: Referred to Education Committee, 4/2/2014]