

COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB 1229

HEARING DATE: February 9,1998

COMMITTEE ON: Education

TITLE: LB 1229 (Bohlke, Abboud, Brashear, Brown, Hillman, D. Pederson, Raikes. Schimek, Schrock, Suttle, Wesely, Wickersham, Willhoft, Beutler) Provide funds for accelerated or diffetentiated curriculum programs

ROLL CALL VOTE - FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

Y Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7 Yes Senators Bohlke, Suttle, Beutler, Brashear, Raikes, Stuhr, Wickersham

0 No

0 Present, not voting

1 Absent Senator Willhoft

PROPONENTS

Senator Ardyce Bohlke

Susan Tracy

Ted Larson

Doug Christensen

Jan McKenzie

Heidi Gouthro

David Lercher

Deb Andrews

M. L. Smith

Daniel Naber

Grant Bachman

Kadi Mann

Andy McDowell

Kristi Scheele

Maureen and Jay Vetter

Mike Powers

Written:

John Bonaiuto

REPRESENTING

Introducer

Pres., Nebraska Parent Network

Nebraska Association for Gifted

Department of Education

State Board of Education

Department of Education

Self

Columbian School parent

Nebraska Parent Network

NRCSA

High Ability Learners Across Nebraska

high ability learner

high ability Learner

high ability learner

Nebraska Parent Network

Parents

Parent

Nebraska Association of State School Boards

OPPONENTS

REPRESENTING

NEUTRAL

REPRESENTING

D'Anne Welch

Self

John Hansen

Farmers Union

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

Legislative Bill 1229 requires the provision of approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs for students identified as learners with high ability. The bill also provides funds for accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs and includes those funds in the special education allowance.

Section 79-1105 is amended to include the implementation of the new reporting and funding sections and the duties of the consultant for learners with high ability.

Section 79-1106 is amended to include the new reporting and funding sections and the purpose provisions for the sections relating to learners with high ability. The purpose is also modified to reflect the specification of accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs.

Section 79-1107 is amended to modify definitions and include the new reporting and funding sections and the definitions section relating to learners with high ability. The definition for "approved programs or services" is replaced with a definition for "approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs. The definition remains similar, except for a specification that (the) programs are academic. The definition for "learners with high ability" is modified by replacing the student requirement for "services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school" with a student requirement for "accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs."

Section 79-1108 is amended to require school districts to provide accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs. Currently, school districts are required to identify students and provide programs or services contingent upon available local, state, or federal funding. Educational service units are removed from the duty to identify learners with high ability and provide programs. A provision is added allowing educational service units to identify students and provide services for school districts. Educational service units are also added as a potential recipient of funds from the Education Innovation Fund for the development and improvement of* programs. The term "accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs" replaces "programs or services" throughout the section.

A new section requires school districts to annually provide the department with a copy of their criteria for identifying students, the number identified, and the number participating in approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs. School districts will also have a list of identified students compared to (the) criteria available for inspection by the

A new section provides I funding for programs. Beginning with 1998-99, the Legislature shall appropriate funds to be distributed to local systems annually on or before September 1. It is the intent to appropriate \$6,000,000 for 1998-99, and for each year thereafter, \$6,000,000 increased by the percentage growth in identified participating students plus the basic allowable growth rate.

Through 2000-01, 5% of the appropriation shall be reserved for grants for startup costs as defined by the State Board of Education. The list distribution shall be based on a pro rata share of the eligible costs submitted on grant applications.

Local systems for base funds and matching funds. Each eligible local system shall receive 0.10% of the appropriation as base funds plus a pro rata share of the remainder based on identified students participating in accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs as matching funds. The identified students for the purpose of matching funds cannot exceed the prior year's fall membership. Eligible local systems shall:

- a. Operate in approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program;
- b. Provide Funds from other sources greater than or equal to 50% of the matching funds;
- c. Provide the accounting of the base funds, matching funds, local system Funds, and the total cost of the program on or before August 1 of the year following receipt of funds;
- d. Provide data on the academic progress of participating students in a manner prescribed by the department, not to exceed one report per year; and
- e. Include identified students from Class I districts that are part of the local system in the programs.

If a local system will not be providing the necessary funds, the local system shall request a reduction in the amount received such that it will be in compliance. Local systems not complying with the requirements shall not be eligible in the following year.

Section 79-1003 is amended to include accelerated or differentiated curriculum program receipts in the special education allowance. Section 79-1018.01 is amended to include the receipts as accountable receipts in the state aid formula.

Section 9-812 is amended to harmonize the lottery provisions with the implementation of "accelerated and differentiated curriculum" terminology. Programs for learners with high ability are currently eligible for Funds From the Education Innovation Fund.

The state board shall adopt rules and regulations, including criteria for approval of accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs and data requirements for measuring academic progress.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

Ardyce Bohlke, Chairperson