

NINETY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION  
INTRODUCER'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

LB 245

SENATOR WITHEM, Chairperson

Committee on EDUCATION

The following constitute the reasons for this bill and the purposes, which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 245 would create the Nebraska Schools Accountability Commission. The Commission, in Phase I of its work (1991) will identify and establish learner outcomes which will be expected of students as they progress through public schools. The Commission, in Phase II of its work (1992), will establish an assessment system to measure the progress of students in achieving learner goals. During Phase III (1993-94), the Commission shall work to implement its plan into appropriate practice, rule and law changes.

As Nebraska seeks to compete in an increasingly international economy, it is necessary to assure that students graduating from the public schools of the state have the requisite knowledge and skills to enter postsecondary education or the workforce. The school system needs to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of the parents, taxpayers, business and students so that all can be assured that common expectations for learner outcomes are being achieved.

Legislative Bill 245 seeks to develop a thoughtful and rational process for establishing broad expectations for schools and students. The intent is specifically not to establish a state curriculum.

Date: February 11, 1991

SENATOR RON WITHEM, Chair  
For the Committee on Education