

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1027**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday January 22, 2024  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Clements  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to schools which elect not to meet accreditation and approval requirements

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	5	Senators Albrecht, Linehan, Meyer, Murman, Sanders
<b>Nay:</b>	1	Senator Walz
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	2	Senators Conrad, Wayne

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Robert Clements  
David Lostroh  
Allie French  
Shannon Splonskowski  
Scott Stangl  
Peter Sample  
Megan Kallina  
Amanda Kirsch  
Ashley Mason  
Mary Hilton  
Elizabeth Davids  
Ben Stangl  
Linda Vermooten  
Jonathan Migouet

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Christian Home Educator Association  
Nebraskans Against Government Overreach  
Bellevue Area Christian Homeschoolers  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Benjamin Buras  
Elizabeth Tegtmeier  
Brian L. Halstead

**Representing:**

Self  
Self  
Nebraska Department of Education

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

**Subject**

Alternative means of addressing state accreditation or approval requirements for private, denominational, or parochial schools.

**Statutory Changes:**

Amends 79-1601

**Bill Summary:**

Private, denominational, or parochial schools in Nebraska must either comply with the accreditation or approval requirements outlined in section 79-318, or, if they choose not to meet such requirements, adhere to the standards and procedures specified in section 79-318 and subsections (2) through (6) of this section.

These standards encompass program of studies, teacher qualifications, instructional materials, science and library facilities, health and safety factors, and rules related to basic skills in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health.

Regulations for schools electing not to meet accreditation or approval requirements involve an assurance, satisfied by a signed statement from the parent or legal guardian, confirming compliance with subsections (2) through (6) of this section, with limited rules governing procedures for receiving information in such cases.

**Section-by-Section Summary:**

**SECTION 1**

**1.1 – Not Amended**

All private, denominational, and parochial schools in the State of Nebraska, along with their teachers, are mandated to adhere to the state's general school laws concerning grades, teacher qualifications, certification, student promotion, equipment, supplies, grading, and curriculum, ensuring a substantial alignment with the standards of public schools.

**1.2**

Private, denominational, or parochial schools in Nebraska are required to either adhere to accreditation or approval requirements outlined in section 79-318 or, if opting not to meet such standards, follow the specifications of section 79-318 and subsections (2) through (6) of this section.

Rules and regulations for schools choosing not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements are based on assurance that they provide a program of instruction leading to the acquisition of basic skills in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health.

The required assurance can be satisfied by a signed statement from the parent or legal guardian, and regulations governing procedures in this section are limited to receiving information from a parent or legal guardian or a parent representative when electing not to meet accreditation or approval requirements.

**1.3**

Subsections (3) through (6) of this section apply to private, denominational, or parochial schools in Nebraska opting not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements, and elections under these subsections become effective upon the Commissioner of Education receiving a statement signed by the parents or legal guardians of all students attending such schools. The statement must assert that the requirements for approval and accreditation violate sincerely held religious beliefs or interfere with parental decisions, and it should include an assurance of compliance, confirmation of required courses, and verification of qualified individuals monitoring instruction. The election remains effective until canceled in writing by the parent or legal guardian, who is responsible for updating the names of attending children when changes occur.

1.4

Each private, denominational, or parochial school choosing not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements must (a) adhere to minimum health, fire, and safety standards, (b) report attendance as per section 79-201, (c) maintain a sequential program of instruction for basic skills, and (d) comply with immunization requirements if the statement signed by the parents or legal guardians indicates a nonreligious reason, with the State Board of Education tasked with establishing procedures for receiving information and reports from authorized parent representatives.

1.5

Employees or personnel of schools opting not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements are exempt from meeting the certification requirements outlined in sections 79-801 to 79-815.

1.6

A school choosing not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements, failing to comply with subsections (2) through (6) of this section, will not be considered a school under section 79-201, and the parents or legal guardians of attending students may face prosecution for habitual truancy under relevant statutes.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 2440 makes two changes to LB 1027:

1. Section 1.3, page 4, line 1 – restores the word “annually”.

The effect of this change is that parents or legal guardians must submit a statement of assurance annually.

2. Section 1.3, page 4, lines 9-16 –

The first sentence removed addressed authorized representatives of the parent or guardian being considered a principal or administrator of the exempt school.

The second and third sentence removed were made null by the restoration of the annual requirement noted above.

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Dave Murman, Chairperson