

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1141

Passed by the Legislature April 9, 1990

Introduced by Withem, 14; Warner, 25; Lindsay, 9;
Weihsing, 48; Barrett, 39

AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to provide for submission to the electors of an amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska by adding a new section 14 to Article VII to establish the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; to provide for the time and manner of submission and form of ballot; and to provide the effective date thereof.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That at the general election in November 1990 there shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval the following amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska by adding a new section 14 to Article VII, which is hereby proposed by the Legislature:

CVII-14 "On January 1, 1992, there shall be established the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education which shall, under the direction of the Legislature, be vested with the authority for the coordination of public postsecondary educational institutions. Public postsecondary educational institutions shall include each postsecondary educational campus or institution which is governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, any board or boards established for the community colleges, or any other governing board for any other public postsecondary educational institution which may be established by the Legislature.

Coordination shall mean:

(1) Authority to adopt, and revise as needed, a comprehensive statewide plan for postsecondary education which shall include (a) definitions of the role and mission of each public postsecondary educational institution within any general assignments of role and mission as may be prescribed by the Legislature and (b) plans for facilities which utilize tax funds designated by the Legislature;

(2) Authority to review, monitor, and approve or disapprove each public postsecondary educational

institution's programs and capital construction projects which utilize tax funds designated by the Legislature in order to provide compliance and consistency with the comprehensive plan and to prevent unnecessary duplication; and

(3) Authority to review and modify, if needed to promote compliance and consistency with the comprehensive statewide plan and prevent unnecessary duplication, the budget requests of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, any board or boards established for the community colleges, or any other governing board for any other public postsecondary educational institution which may be established by the Legislature.

The Legislature may provide the commission with additional powers and duties related to postsecondary education as long as such powers and duties do not invade the governance and management authority of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges as provided in the Constitution of Nebraska, Article VII, sections 10 and 13. The Legislature may provide that coordination of the community colleges by the commission pursuant to this section may be conducted through a board or association representing all the community colleges.

Nothing in this section providing for statewide coordination shall limit or require the use of property tax revenue by and for community colleges.

The commission shall consist of eleven members, residents of the state or the districts for which appointed, who shall be appointed by the Governor with the approval of a majority of the Legislature. Six of the members shall be chosen from six districts of approximately equal population and five shall be chosen on a statewide basis.

The terms of the members of the commission shall be six years or until a successor is qualified and takes office, except that of the members initially appointed, four members shall serve for terms of two years and four members shall serve for terms of four years. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties but may be reimbursed their actual and necessary expenses."

Sec. 2. That the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the manner prescribed by the Constitution of Nebraska, Article XVI, section 1. The proposition for the submission of the proposed

amendment shall be placed upon the ballot in the following form:

"A constitutional amendment to establish the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, to provide powers for the commission, and to provide for membership on the commission.

For

Against".

Sec. 3. That the proposed amendment, if adopted, shall be in force and take effect immediately upon the completion of the canvass of the votes, at which time it shall be the duty of the Governor to proclaim it as a part of the Constitution of Nebraska.