

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 380**

Introduced by Morfeld, 46; Hansen, 26.

Read first time January 16, 2015

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to create and
- 2 provide duties for the Higher Education Affordability Commission.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1       Section 1. (1) The Higher Education Affordability Commission is  
2 created. The executive committee of the commission shall consist of the  
3 following voting members:

4       (a) The Speaker of the Legislature;

5       (b) A member of the Education Committee of the Legislature,  
6 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

7       (c) A member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature,  
8 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

9       (c) A member of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature, appointed  
10 by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council; and

11       (e) Two at-large members of the Legislature, appointed by the  
12 Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

13       The voting members of the executive committee shall choose a  
14 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the voting members.

15       (2)(a) The President of the University of Nebraska or his or her  
16 designee, the Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System or his or  
17 her designee, a representative of the private, not for profit colleges  
18 and universities in Nebraska, and a representative of the Nebraska  
19 community colleges shall be nonvoting ex officio members of the executive  
20 committee of the commission.

21       (b) The executive committee may appoint up to two additional  
22 nonvoting members of the commission.

23       Sec. 2. (1) The Higher Education Affordability Commission shall:

24       (a) Share, examine, and analyze data and information regarding  
25 affordability of postsecondary education in Nebraska with a primary focus  
26 on innovative ways to reduce the expense for students and families;

27       (b) Encourage participation and input from academic experts,  
28 students, college financial aid advisers, members of the banking  
29 community, and others in exploring strategies and solutions to the ever-  
30 increasing cost of postsecondary education and the financial burden on  
31 students and families; and

1       (c) Research best practices utilized by other states in addressing  
2 college affordability, including loan forgiveness programs that allow  
3 students to attend a postsecondary educational institution at no cost.

4       (2) To accomplish its duties, the commission may request and receive  
5 from any postsecondary educational institution information relating to  
6 costs of postsecondary education, including tuition and all fees.

7       (3) On or before December 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a  
8 report of its findings and recommendations electronically to the  
9 Executive Board of the Legislative Council, the Education Committee of  
10 the Legislature, and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature. The  
11 report shall include:

12       (a) A ten-year plan to address college affordability;

13       (b) A legislative proposal to create a pilot program to address  
14 affordability of postsecondary education from the best and innovative  
15 practices in other states; and

16       (c) Other recommendations of the commission to address the overall  
17 issue of access to and affordability of postsecondary education in  
18 Nebraska.