

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 320

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to determine whether students with disabilities have experienced increased ability to access option enrollment opportunities in Nebraska and to examine potential changes to the enrollment option program to better ensure students with disabilities have an increased ability to access option enrollment opportunities.

Prior to 2023, school districts had wide latitude to reject students with disabilities and evidence showed that most districts had closed enrollment option programs to all students with disabilities. In an effort to expand option enrollment opportunities for students with disabilities, section 79-239 was amended by Laws 2023, LB705, and now requires the adoption of capacity standards for acceptance and rejection of applications under the enrollment option program, and requires capacity for special education services to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, section 79-239 now requires school districts that reject such applicants to provide written notification to parents with the specific reasons for rejection including a description of the services and accommodations required for a student with a disability that the school district does not have capacity to provide.

This study should analyze applications under the enrollment option program, and acceptance or rejections thereof, in order to determine whether school districts are making individualized decisions as opposed to generalized decisions. The study should also examine and determine how the significant increases in special education funding granted in 2023 has been utilized by school districts to increase capacity in the enrollment option program for students with disabilities, and should consider what, if any, improvements need

to be made to ensure that students with disabilities are regularly accepted to enrollment option programs across the State of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.