

Three amendments added Teaching bill passes first round

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

amendments sponsored by Sen. Dennis Baack of Kimball.

The first Baack amendment incorporates LB1033, which requires speech-language pathologists to earn master's degrees before they can obtain their teaching certificates, into the bill.

Another amendment added LB1051, allowing students involved in special education who turn 21 to remain in school.

State law currently allows school officials to end some students' special education on the day they turn 21, Baack said.

The amendment allows those students to continue receiving special education services through the school year or their 21st birthdays.

Baack's second amendment also allows parents of special education students who choose to transport their children to special education classes to be reimbursed 100 percent of mileage costs by the local school district.

State statutes presently allow parents to be reimbursed for 86 percent of mileage costs, he said.

Baack said the amendment likely would affect only one district in the state.

Even with the increased reimbursement, he said, it still would be cheaper for that district to pay parents to drive their children than to provide busing for those students.

The Legislature also amended the bill to include LB1195, which sets up technology-training satellite centers for teachers in North Platte and Scottsbluff.

Sen. David Bernard-Stevens of North Platte said the only existing technology training center for teachers is in Lincoln, and it is difficult for teachers in Western Nebraska to travel to Lincoln to use it.

The satellite centers would help teachers learn to use computer software and other new technologies in classrooms, he said.

The Nebraska Legislature gave first-round approval to a bill that would enable teachers who received their educations outside Nebraska to have two years to obtain their human relations training.

State Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion said that with passage of LB250 last year, elementary- and secondary-education teachers trained outside the state could not teach in Nebraska until they completed human relations training.

The statute prevented some teachers who were qualified in all other areas except human relations from teaching in Nebraska, Withem said.

If the new bill is passed, Withem said, teachers educated outside Nebraska would be given a two-year provisional certificate, allowing them to begin teaching immediately.

Before passing LB1090, senators amended it three times, including two

UNL hosts area students for Trio Day

By Diane Brayton
Senior Editor

In an attempt to raise awareness about education programs for the disadvantaged, students will gather Saturday in Lincoln to celebrate Nebraska Trio Day.

Nebraska Trio Day was declared by Gov. Kay Orr to call attention to federally financed programs for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, said Bruce Ouder Kirk, writing/learning specialist in the Multi-Cultural Affairs office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Although the Nebraska holiday is in its second year, Ouder Kirk said, similar programs have existed on a national scale since 1986, when Congress created Trio Day.

Trio programs were established by Congress in the 1960s to help low-income students go to college and encourage first-generation college students to graduate. The programs offer tutoring, counseling and assistance in applying for financial aid.

Jimmi Smith, UNL director of Multi-Cultural Affairs, said about 450,000 students are helped by Trio

programs each year.

Although Trio was named after three original programs, Smith said, the network has grown and now helps low-income high school and college students and low-income adults through five organizations:

- Upward Bound, which encourages high school students to attend college.

- Talent Search, which identifies potential college students.

- Student Support Services, which provides counseling for college students.

- Education Opportunity Centers, which promote post-secondary education in low-income communities.

- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which provides research opportunities for undergraduates.

This year, UNL will host students from Creighton University, Doane College, Chadron State College and Western Nebraska Community College to recognize Nebraska Trio Day. Deputy Attorney General A. Eugene Crump and representatives of U.S. Sen. James Exon and U.S. Rep. Peter Hoagland will participate in the day's

events.

"For many of those students," Smith said, "this will be their first time to come into contact with congressional representatives and aides and talk about what's necessary to help them learn and feel a part of the American society."

Crump will speak at a public rally on the steps of the capitol at 11:30 a.m. Other events for the day include a student leadership program at the Nebraska Union and a panel discussion on political involvement.

Flag

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when it ruled that flag desecration is a form of protected expression under the First Amendment.

Ralph Gillan of Lincoln agreed, and said Americans are allowed freedom of speech.

"There is absolutely no difference between that and burning the flag," Gillan said.

Chambers said people should be happy when those with a "great deal of hostility" about the government's actions "take it out on the flag" instead of taking it out on those governing.

Burial

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Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion said the question of this issue is the ownership of the remains. He said LB340 made a policy statement that tribes or relatives owned them.

Robert Perego, an attorney representing the Pawnee tribe, said the Pawnee believe that the spirits of their ancestors will wander aimlessly forever if their burial artifacts are not with their remains.

He said the Pawnee fear being near any burial artifacts or human remains. Many Pawnees are suffering trauma or emotional distress because of the removal of burial goods from the graves of their ancestors, Perego said.

Susan Adkisson, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate in anthropology who testified against the bill, said not all anthropologists agree that the remains are needed for educational purposes. She said that once the artifacts have been analyzed, they should be returned and facsimiles used in educational displays.

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