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If you or someone you know have been impacted by some of the topics covered in articles, reports and studies done by the Platte Institute, please let us know about it. In an effort to more effectively communicate issues facing Nebraskans, we are looking to humanize the issues facing our state. Please send us an email to

[feedback@platteinstitute.org](mailto:feedback@platteinstitute.org)  
if you have an idea for us.

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# PLATTE CHAT

## VIDEO CHAT: LOWER STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO DOES NOT EQUAL IMPROVED ACT SCORES IN OPS, OTHER DISTRICTS

One of the recommendations made in the study, "[Nebraska's Spending Habits: Are We Frugal or Frivolous](#)" was to raise the student-teacher ratio in Nebraska from 13.8 to the national median of 15.1.

According to Dr. Ernie Goss of Creighton University, who authored the study, Nebraska could save an estimated \$102 million annually with such a move. In recent years, K-12 education spending in Nebraska has climbed drastically and the student-teacher ratios have dropped.

But, as our [first-ever video Platte Chat](#) discusses, along with the student-teacher ratio, ACT scores are also dropping. So why is Nebraska continuing to throw more money into the system when the results aren't getting better?

[Join the conversation by watching the video HERE.](#)

## NEBRASKA'S LICENSING

- [Alliance Times-Herald](#)
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## REQUIREMENTS HIGHEST AMONG ALL ITS NEIGHBORS

We've all heard the phrase, "bureaucratic red tape" used to describe a cumbersome process.

[A report by the Reason Foundation entitled, "Occupational Licensing: Ranking the States and Exploring Alternatives"](#) finds that Nebraska has more licensing requirements than any of its neighbors and ranks the Cornhusker State as the 19<sup>th</sup> highest in the country when it comes to the most bureaucratic red tape in this form.

Here are how the rankings look when comparing Nebraska and the states it shares a border with. The number of occupations requiring a license is in parentheses.

Nebraska (96)  
 South Dakota (90)  
 Iowa (85)  
 Wyoming (74)  
 Colorado (68)  
 Kansas (56)  
 Missouri (41)

[The study](#) shows that Nebraska requires licenses in 15 occupations which none of its bordering states require. And in three of those occupations, Nebraska is the only state in the entire country to require a license for those occupations – including amusement and recreation attendants. In the study, it is stated, "...we should seek to encourage employment opportunity and entrepreneurship, not deter them. Governments should, therefore, look to remove economic barriers, not erect or maintain them through licensing laws.

"Occupational licensing laws tend to hurt the very people that the government purports to be 'protecting' with its regulations. Such regulations disproportionately harm the poor and minorities, who generally have less work experience and fewer employment opportunities than the rest of the population. Laws that make it more difficult for them to

- [Hemingford Ledger](#)
- [Hickman Voice News](#)
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- [South Sioux City Dakota County Star](#)
- [Superior Express](#)
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obtain certain jobs or start their own business only make it that much harder for them to work their way up the economic ladder.”

We couldn't agree more.

[Democrat](#)

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