

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1109

Introduced by Conrad, 46; Harms, 48; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7;
Wightman, 36.

Read first time January 21, 2010

Committee: Executive Board

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Legislature; to adopt the Nebraska
2 Innovation and High Wage Employment Act; to provide a
3 termination date; to provide funding; and to declare an
4 emergency.

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

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment
3 Act.

4 Sec. 2. The Legislature recognizes the importance of
5 innovation and high wage employment and the role that innovation
6 plays in the economic well-being of the state. The Innovation and
7 Entrepreneurship Task Force is created. The Executive Board of the
8 Legislative Council shall appoint at least six and no more than
9 ten members of the Legislature to the task force. The task force
10 shall develop a statewide strategic plan to cultivate a climate
11 of entrepreneurship that results in innovation and high wage
12 employment. The task force shall adopt policy criteria to be used
13 in the development of the plan. The plan shall include an inventory
14 of current state and locally sponsored programs and resources
15 targeted to small businesses, microenterprises, and entrepreneurial
16 endeavors in the state. The plan shall provide an overview of best
17 practices from other states, including, but not limited to, an
18 examination of economic gardening and angel investor programs, and
19 provide policy options.

20 Sec. 3. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Task Force,
21 in consultation with the Executive Board of the Legislative
22 Council, shall commission a nonprofit organization to provide
23 research, analysis, and recommendations for the development of
24 the statewide strategic plan. The nonprofit organization shall be
25 incorporated pursuant to the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act,

1 shall be organized exclusively for nonprofit purposes within the
2 meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, shall
3 be engaged in activities to facilitate and promote the growth of
4 potential high growth businesses within the state and shall be
5 dedicated to the development and growth of the entrepreneurial
6 economy. It is the intent of the Legislature to reallocate
7 one hundred thousand dollars of General Funds appropriated for
8 FY2010-11 for the purpose of administering the Microenterprise
9 Development Act in order to supplement funding allocated to carry
10 out the Nebraska Operational Assistance Act to provide funding for
11 the task force.

12 Sec. 4. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Task Force
13 shall prepare and present the statewide strategic plan to the
14 Legislature by December 1, 2010.

15 Sec. 5. The Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment
16 Act terminates on January 1, 2011.

17 Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
18 when passed and approved according to law.