

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1131

Introduced by McGill, 26.

Read first time January 19, 2012

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to public schools; to adopt the Innovation,

2 Discovery, and Entrepreneurial Act.

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

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Innovation, Discovery, and Entrepreneurial Act.

3 Sec. 2. (1) The Legislature finds that:

4 (a) Economic success in the twenty-first century will
5 come from technological innovation and talent;

6 (b) Creativity, critical thinking, innovation, advanced
7 manufacturing, and entrepreneurial skills and education in science,
8 technology, engineering, and math are increasingly in demand;

9 (c) Eight-one percent of American corporate leaders say
10 that creativity is an essential skill for the twenty-first century
11 workforce;

12 (d) The 2010 Battelle Study called upon Nebraska to
13 establish a new pipeline of talent to meet the needs of the twenty-
14 first century economy; and

15 (e) The Battelle Study also found that shortage of
16 workforce talent is significantly hurting the state's ability to
17 attract companies to Nebraska and for existing companies to compete.

18 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
19 establishment of an Innovation, Discovery, and Entrepreneurial Act
20 task force results in creation of the IDEA Project that will analyze
21 public schools on teaching, encouraging, and fostering creativity and
22 skill building in students. Creative school practices include
23 availability of classes and before-and-after school programs offered
24 by and through public schools that provide creative opportunities for
25 students, including, but not limited to, business clubs, classes

1 designed to teach entrepreneurship, arts education, debate clubs,
2 science fairs, theatre performances, concerts, filmmaking, and
3 independent research. The task force should support and encourage
4 skill building in increasingly critical areas to employers such as
5 creativity, creative thinking skills, innovation, manufacturing, and
6 teamwork.

7 Sec. 3. The IDEA Task Force is created. The task force
8 shall consist of:

9 (1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

10 (2) The Director of Economic Development or his or her
11 designee;

12 (3) The Commissioner of Labor or his or her designee;

13 (4) Two members of the public from each congressional
14 district appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;
15 and

16 (5) Six members of the public appointed by the Governor.

17 Each individual who is appointed shall have expertise or
18 experience in innovation in his or her field, which may include
19 business, manufacturing, science, education, public policy,
20 engineering, artistic development, workforce development, or cultural
21 development. When making appointments, the executive board and
22 Governor shall ensure that, as much as possible, the diversity of
23 endeavors requiring a creative workforce, such as technology,
24 research, business, architecture, and the arts, are represented.

25 The appointments shall be made within thirty days after

1 the effective date of this act. The Commissioner of Education or his
2 or her designee shall be the chairperson of the task force.

3 Appointed members shall not be reimbursed for expenses.

4 Sec. 4. The IDEA Task Force shall:

5 (1) Develop recommendations on how to produce and
6 implement creative and innovative education programs in public
7 schools, to be known as the IDEA Project;

8 (2) Determine what funding or finance measures would be
9 needed to implement the IDEA Project; and

10 (3) Make recommendations for interlocal agreements or
11 other cooperative agreements that would be required to foster
12 creative and innovative education programs in public schools.

13 The task force shall hold public hearings to assist in
14 the collection and evaluation of data and testimony. The task force
15 shall complete a written report detailing its recommendations and any
16 factors to be considered in the IDEA Project and any financial
17 measures that would be necessary for implementation. The written
18 report shall be presented to the Governor, the Education Committee of
19 the Legislature, and the Business and Labor Committee of the
20 Legislature by December 31, 2012.

21 Sec. 5. The State Department of Education, the Department
22 of Economic Development, and the Department of Labor shall provide
23 staff support for the IDEA Task Force.

24 Sec. 6. The Innovation, Discovery, and Entrepreneurial
25 Act terminates on June 30, 2013.