

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1136**

Introduced by Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7.

Read first time January 19, 2012

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to employment; to state findings; to create and  
2 provide for a wage subsidy program; to provide duties for  
3 the Department of Health and Human Services; to provide  
4 for termination of the program; to state intent relating  
5 to appropriations; to provide an operative date; and to  
6 declare an emergency.

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

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2           (1) Work experience is necessary to obtain employment in  
3 a competitive job market;

4           (2) Businesses find creating capacity to add employees  
5 during a time of economic recovery challenging;

6           (3) Subsidized employment can benefit employers and  
7 workers in need of experience;

8           (4) Increasing opportunities for public assistance  
9 recipients to engage in meaningful workplace experience can  
10 significantly contribute to their long-term employability;

11           (5) Providing wage subsidies can also help businesses to  
12 grow; and

13           (6) States nationwide provide subsidized employment to  
14 public assistance recipients in order to aid employers in developing  
15 work placements for public assistance recipients.

16           Sec. 2. The wage subsidy program is created within the  
17 Department of Health and Human Services to provide opportunities for  
18 employers and participants in the aid to dependent children program  
19 to receive wage subsidies. The department shall establish an  
20 application process for the program. Such process shall include, but  
21 not be limited to, a requirement that applicants submit a plan  
22 including, but not limited to, the following criteria:

23           (1) A partnership between an entity which contracts with  
24 the department pursuant to section 68-1722 to provide case management  
25 services and a nonprofit organization or the Department of Labor;

1           (2) Initial client assessment, job development, job  
2 placement, and employment retention services; and

3           (3) A strategy to place participants in in-demand jobs.

4           Sec. 3. Wage subsidies under the program created under  
5 section 2 of this act shall be capped at the prevailing wage and  
6 shall be provided for no more than forty hours per week for not more  
7 than six months per participant. Wages shall be subsidized on the  
8 following scale:

9           (1) One hundred percent in months one and two of the  
10 program;

11           (2) Seventy-five percent in month three of the program;

12           (3) Fifty percent in months four and five of the program;

13 and

14           (4) Twenty-five percent in month six of the program.

15           Sec. 4. The wage subsidy program created under section 2  
16 of this act shall terminate on July 1, 2014, at which time Department  
17 of Health and Human Services shall submit a final report to the  
18 Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, reporting the  
19 number of participants and their employment status.

20           Sec. 5. The Department of Health and Human Services may  
21 adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out sections 1 to  
22 4 of this act.

23           Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
24 appropriate one million dollars for FY2012-13 and one million dollars  
25 for FY2013-14 from Temporary Assistance for Needy Family funds to

1 carry out the provisions of sections 1 to 5 of this act.

2                   Sec. 7. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2012.

3                   Sec. 8. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect

4 when passed and approved according to law.