

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 345

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

Read first time January 12, 2011

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to amend section 13-208,
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the
3 Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act; to provide
4 funding and a termination date; to repeal the original
5 section; and to declare an emergency.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act.

3 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to evolve
4 Nebraska's economic development and job creation policies in order to
5 remain competitive by adopting recommendations from the statewide
6 strategic plan developed by the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Task
7 Force. The strategic plan recognizes that Nebraska's current policy
8 tools targeted to fostering high-wage job growth among small
9 businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators have not kept pace with
10 other states and jurisdictions. Nebraska has a clear opportunity to
11 improve our entrepreneurial ecosystem by adopting proactive policy
12 solutions with demonstrated positive results, such as a statewide
13 economic gardening pilot program.

14 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Economic Gardening Technical
15 Assistance Act:

16 (1) Department means the Department of Economic
17 Development;

18 (2) Economic gardening means the provision of technical
19 resources to locally owned and operated Nebraska-based growth
20 businesses to foster development, growth, and high-wage job creation;
21 and

22 (3) Nebraska-based growth business means a corporation,
23 partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, or
24 limited liability partnership registered with the Nebraska Secretary
25 of State that has five to fifty employees and annual sales revenue of

1 no less than five hundred thousand dollars and no more than two
2 million five hundred thousand dollars.

3 Sec. 4. The department may enter into a contract with a
4 Nebraska-based nonprofit entity, small business development center,
5 community development corporation, Nebraska-based institution of
6 higher education, chamber of commerce, or regional development
7 district for the purpose of carrying out the Economic Gardening
8 Technical Assistance Act.

9 Sec. 5. (1) The Legislature hereby establishes a
10 statewide pilot program to support and assist up to forty Nebraska-
11 based growth businesses. At least one-half of the businesses assisted
12 under the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act shall be
13 located in counties with a population of fewer than fifty thousand
14 inhabitants.

15 (2) The pilot program shall provide technical assistance
16 to Nebraska-based growth businesses that includes:

17 (a) Information tools, including industry trends,
18 industry financial data, state and national demographic trends,
19 competitive intelligence, and marketing lists; and

20 (b) Decisionmaking tools, including strategy analysis,
21 management team makeup, capital referrals, and labor referrals.

22 Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature to reallocate
23 two hundred thousand dollars of General Funds appropriated for
24 FY2011-12 and one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars of General
25 Funds appropriated for FY2012-13 for the purpose of providing tax

1 credits under the Community Development Assistance Act in order to
2 supplement funding allocated to carry out the Economic Gardening
3 Technical Assistance Act.

4 Sec. 7. The department shall prepare and present a report
5 to the Legislature by January 1, 2013, on the Economic Gardening
6 Technical Assistance Act that includes, but is not limited to,
7 businesses assisted, aggregate change in sales revenue, number of
8 jobs created, and range of newly created jobs that includes an
9 average wage.

10 Sec. 8. The Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act
11 terminates on January 1, 2013.

12 Sec. 9. Section 13-208, Reissue Revised Statutes of
13 Nebraska, is amended to read:

14 13-208 The total amount of tax credit granted for
15 programs approved and certified under the Community Development
16 Assistance Act by the department for any fiscal year shall not exceed
17 three hundred fifty thousand dollars, except that for fiscal years
18 2011-12 and 2012-13, the total amount of tax credit granted under the
19 act shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

20 Sec. 10. Original section 13-208, Reissue Revised
21 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

22 Sec. 11. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
23 when passed and approved according to law.