

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB386

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Business and Labor

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2011

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 386 would connect Nebraska college students with targeted industries by financially assisting companies willing to provide paid internships, in an effort to retain these students in Nebraska upon graduation.

Eligible companies would be able to apply to the Department of Economic Development for job training grants to assist in hiring interns, as long as the internship did not exist previously. The intern must be paid at least the federal minimum wage and work at least 200 hours in a 12-week period but not more than 1,000 hours in a 50-week period. Eligible companies are those that are eligible to apply for benefits as a tier 3 project under the Nebraska Advantage Act.

The job training grant may be up to the lesser of 40% of the cost of the internship or \$3,500. If in a distressed area, the grant may be up to 60% of the cost of the internship or \$5,000, whichever is less. Eligible companies cannot apply for more than two grants for the same intern and are not to be awarded more than 5 job training grants in any 12-month period.

For fiscal years 2011/12 and 2012/13, the department may allocate no more than \$1.5 million from the Job Training Cash Fund for the internship program.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lavon Heidemann