

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 729**

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

Read first time January 09, 2014

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to state findings; to create and  
2 provide duties for the Task Force on Expanded Learning  
3 Opportunities for School-Age Youth; to provide a  
4 termination date; and to declare an emergency.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2           (1) The State Board of Education adopted a policy  
3 statement on expanded learning opportunities highlighting the  
4 important role that school-community partnerships play in supporting  
5 the academic and healthy development of school-age youth;

6           (2) Local and national research shows that regular  
7 participation in high-quality expanded learning opportunity programs  
8 result in significant gains in the academic, social, and emotional  
9 development of youth; and

10          (3) Expanded learning opportunity programs are proven to  
11 support working parents and to build stronger connections between  
12 Nebraska schools and communities, allowing concerned citizens to  
13 create and sustain the additional educational opportunities all  
14 school-age youth need to succeed in school and in life.

15          Sec. 2. The Task Force on Expanded Learning Opportunities  
16 for School-Age Youth is created. The task force shall consist of  
17 twenty-three members as follows:

18          (1) Two members of the Legislature who shall be co-  
19 chairpersons of the task force and who shall be appointed by the  
20 Speaker of the Legislature;

21          (2) One member of the State Board of Education, appointed  
22 by the chairperson of the state board, who shall be a co-chairperson  
23 of the task force;

24          (3) One member of the Board of Regents of the University  
25 of Nebraska, appointed by the chairperson of the Board of Regents,

1 who shall be a co-chairperson of the task force;

2 (4) Three representatives from the State Department of  
3 Education, representing the Office of Early Childhood Education,  
4 Twenty-first Century Community Learning Centers, and Career and  
5 Technical Education, appointed by the Commissioner of Education;

6 (5) Six members appointed by the Governor, representing  
7 the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the  
8 University of Nebraska at Omaha Juvenile Justice Institute, the  
9 Department of Health and Human Services, the Governor's Youth  
10 Advisory Council, the Department of Labor, and the Department of  
11 Economic Development; and

12 (6) Ten representatives appointed by the co-chairpersons  
13 of the task force, representing nonprofit organizations with an  
14 interest in education, foundations, Beyond School Bells or a  
15 successor organization that advocates for expanded learning  
16 opportunities, school administrators, parents, the Nebraska Chamber  
17 of Commerce, and community-based intermediaries. Not less than thirty  
18 percent of the members appointed pursuant to this subdivision shall  
19 reside in rural areas of Nebraska. For purposes of this section,  
20 rural area means an area within a city of the first class, a city of  
21 the second class, a village, or an unincorporated city or village or  
22 outside the corporate limits of a city or village.

23 Sec. 3. (1) The Task Force on Expanded Learning  
24 Opportunities for School-Age Youth shall review existing state and  
25 local programs and policies on expanded learning opportunities and

1 make recommendations to the Legislature and State Department of  
2 Education on model approaches, including, but not limited to, the  
3 following areas:

4 (a) Methods of improving program quality and impact from  
5 national and local program evaluations and best practices;

6 (b) Available public and private funding sources for  
7 expanded learning opportunities;

8 (c) The alignment of efforts between the State Department  
9 of Education, the nonprofit sector, and the private sector on  
10 expanded learning opportunities;

11 (d) Opportunities for coordination and collaboration,  
12 including data-sharing, between school districts and community-based  
13 expanded learning opportunity programs;

14 (e) Methods of improving quality and retention in the  
15 expanded learning opportunity workforce, including enhancing  
16 opportunities for professional development and technical assistance;

17 (f) Methods to increase access for all children and  
18 families to high-quality expanded learning opportunities; and

19 (g) Public and private support to build a sustainable  
20 infrastructure for expanded learning opportunities.

21 (2) The State Department of Education, the Nebraska  
22 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Division of  
23 Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human  
24 Services, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Economic  
25 Development shall work with the task force to clarify a comprehensive

1 system of accounting and reporting of all state and federal funding  
2 directly expended on expanded learning opportunities and the programs  
3 supported by such funding not later than September 1, 2014, and  
4 September 1, 2015.

5 (3) The task force shall also consult with and solicit  
6 input from individuals and entities, including, but not limited to,  
7 the Nebraska Elementary and Secondary School Finance Authority, the  
8 Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Nebraska Council of School  
9 Administrators, the Nebraska State Education Association, the  
10 Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, the  
11 Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, the League of Nebraska  
12 Municipalities, the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, the  
13 University Extension Division relating to 4-H, the National Center  
14 for Research on Rural Education, city-level expanded learning  
15 opportunities intermediaries, other local and national organizations  
16 serving youth, and other interested persons.

17 Sec. 4. The Task Force on Expanded Learning Opportunities  
18 for School-Age Youth shall annually prepare a progress report  
19 concerning the task force's activities, with recommendations  
20 concerning expanded learning opportunities, and file the report with  
21 the Governor and electronically with the Clerk of the Legislature who  
22 shall forward the report to the chairpersons of all standing  
23 committees of the Legislature no later than December 1 of each year  
24 that the task force exists.

25 Sec. 5. Appointments to the Task Force on Expanded

1 Learning Opportunities shall be made no later than June 1, 2014, and  
2 the task force shall begin its work no later than July 1, 2014.

3           Sec. 6. The Task Force on Expanded Learning Opportunities  
4 for School-Age Youth shall terminate on June 30, 2016, unless  
5 extended by the Legislature.

6           Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
7 when passed and approved according to law.