

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB1110

Hearing Date: Monday February 22, 2016
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Mello
One Liner: Adopt the Nebraska Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Bloomfield, Crawford, Ebke, Harr, Howard, Johnson
Nay:
Absent: 1 Senator Chambers
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Heath Mello
John Albin
Brad Meurrens
Sarah Moylan

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Labor
Disability Rights Nebraska
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska
Chamber of Commerce

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Sec. 1. creates the Nebraska Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Sec. 2. intent language stating that a well-educated and highly skilled workforce is essential for Nebraska to remain prosperous and competitive. LB 1110 outlines guiding principles for the state's workforce investment system to include the following: the programs and services should be responsive to the needs of employers, workers and students; collaboration is encouraged between state and local workforce development boards and other public and private institutions; programs and services should be data driven and evidence based when setting priorities, investing resources, and adopting practices; partnerships should be developed with the private sector; and programs and services must be accessible to employers, workers, and students, especially those with barriers to employment.

The Legislature finds that screening designed to detect learning disabilities improves workforce preparation and enhances the use of training resources. Intent language stating that the federal WIOA program allows for the use of funds for initial assessments of skill levels, aptitudes, abilities, and support services, including diagnostic testing, interviewing, and evaluation to identify employment barriers and employment goals.

The Legislature encourages one-stop career centers to maximize use of federal WIOA resources and other federal and state resources for detection of unidentified disabilities.

Sec. 3. defines career pathways. Career pathways offer programs, training, education and other services aimed at aligning skill needs with an individual who is prepared, educated and trained to succeed in the workforce.

Sec. 4. requires the Commissioner of Labor to report annually to the Governor, Legislature, and the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board no later than November 30 about the training expenses made by the local boards in the prior year. The report will note the amount of federal funding provided to the state and to each of the local investment areas.

Sec. 5. authorizes the Department of Labor to administer the requirements of the federal WIOA program in order to ensure compliance. The department may adopt and promulgate rules.

Sec. 6. creates the Consolidated Work Program Fund, administered by the department, to be used to receive money deposited pursuant to the federal WIOA program.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment replaces the bill. It includes revisions to LB 1110 relating to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and includes LB 1029 as amended by its committee amendment.

Sec. 1. creates the Nebraska Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Sec. 2. intent language stating that a well-educated and highly skilled workforce is essential for Nebraska to remain prosperous and competitive. AM 2294 outlines guiding principles for the state's workforce investment system to include the following: the programs and services should be responsive to the needs of employers, workers and students; collaboration is encouraged between state and local workforce development boards and other public and private institutions; programs and services should be data driven and evidence based when setting priorities, investing resources, and adopting practices; partnerships should be developed with the private sector; and programs and services must be accessible to employers, workers, and students, especially those with barriers to employment.

The Legislature finds that screening designed to detect learning disabilities improves workforce preparation and enhances the use of training resources. Intent language stating that the federal WIOA program allows for the use of funds for initial assessments of skill levels, aptitudes, abilities, and support services, including diagnostic testing, interviewing, and evaluation to identify employment barriers and employment goals.

The Legislature encourages one-stop career centers to maximize use of federal WIOA resources and other federal and state resources for detection of unidentified disabilities.

Sec. 3. defines career pathways. Career pathways offer programs, training, education and other services aimed at aligning skill needs with an individual who is prepared, educated and trained to succeed in the workforce.

Sec. 4. requires the Commissioner of Labor to submit a copy of the performance report required under WIOA annually to the Governor, Legislature, and the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board no later than November 30. The report will cover the prior program year and the total amount of federal funding provided to the state and each of the local workforce development areas.

Sec. 5. authorizes the Department of Labor to administer the requirements of the federal WIOA program in order to ensure compliance. The department may adopt and promulgate rules.

Sec. 6. creates the Sector Partnership Program Act.

Sec. 7. intent language stating that sector partnerships are a proven strategy for success for employers and workers to close skill gaps and provide training in high-demand industries.

Sec. 8. definitional section. Defines department, high-demand sector, local area, local sector partnership, local

workforce development board, and Nebraska Workforce Development Board.

Sec. 9. creates the Sector Partnership Program, to be administered by the Department of Labor in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development. The Department of Labor must consult with the Nebraska Workforce Development Board, the Department of Economic Development, and the State Department of Education. It requires the Department of Labor to establish a study process to conduct labor availability and skills gap studies, determine the laborshed areas of the state, and complete studies for those areas on a rotating basis as determined by the Department of Labor. All studies are public information, except as otherwise provided in state or federal law.

The Department of Labor and Department of Economic Development may contract with other entities to conduct additional studies. The departments shall provide technical assistance to local sector partnerships.

Sec. 10. creates the Sector Partnership Program Fund to be administered by the Department of Labor. The fund is to be used to pursue sector partnership activities, including studies conducted by the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic Development pursuant to the act. The fund may also be used for administrative costs of both departments associated with sector partnership activities.

The fund will consist of money that is: transferred from the Job Training Cash Fund and the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund; appropriated by the Legislature; donated as gifts; and made available by any department or agency of the U.S. if so directed.

Sec. 11. requires the department to provide an annual report on or before July 31 of each year to the Governor and Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature. The report shall detail the process and results of the labor availability and skills gap studies.

Sec. 12. permits the department to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.

Sec. 13. authorizes money in the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund to be used to develop and conduct labor availability and skills gap studies pursuant to the Sector Partnership Program Act. It also requires the State Treasurer to transfer \$250,000 from the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund to the Sector Partnership Program Fund no later than July 15, 2016.

Sec. 14. authorizes money in the Job Training Cash Fund to be used pursuant to Sec. 10 of this act. It also requires \$250,000 to be transferred from the Job Training Cash Fund to the Sector Partnership Program Fund no later than July 15, 2016.

Sec. 15. repealer.

Sec. 16. emergency clause for act to take effect when passed.

Burke Harr, Chairperson