

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB251

Hearing Date: Monday February 02, 2015
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Nordquist
One Liner: Adopt the Veterans Subsidized Training and Employment Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

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

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents: Senator Jeremy Nordquist James Shuey	Representing: Introducer Disabled American Veterans
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Sec. 1. LB 251 creates the Veterans Subsidized Training and Employment Act.

Sec. 2. Definitional section defining armed forces, control with regard to a corporation, department, eligible business, new employee, on-the-job training, and related person.

Sec. 3. This section creates the Veterans Subsidized Training and Employment Program. The program provides grants to eligible businesses to subsidize part of the costs of on-the-job training and compensation for new employees for the first 180 calendar days following the hire date. No business receiving a grant of this act may receive another grant for the same employee. The program will be administered by the Department of Labor.

At the discretion of the Commissioner, the Veterans Subsidized Training and Employment Program fund may be used to retain outside consultants to develop and operate the program. The department will consult with the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board and local workforce investment boards concerning the program.

For FY 2015-16, the department may use up to 4% of the funds appropriated for marketing.

Sec. 4. An eligible business may apply to the department for a grant to subsidize on-the-job training and wages for a new employee. The Commissioner must approve the applicant's proposed training prior to grant funds being awarded.

The grant amounts are as follows. For the first 30 days the employee is hired, 100% of the wage (excluding benefits) is paid so long as it is not more than \$20/hour. The 31st through the 90th calendar day of employment, it is reduced to

75%. Days 91 through 150 the amount is 50%, and the 151st day through the 180th day is reduced to 25%. If the new employee leaves employment with the business, the grant is cancelled.

Sec. 5. Beginning in 2016, the Commissioner must report the number of businesses that participated in the program, the general categories of the businesses, the number of people who received employment through the program, the number of applicants denied grant funding and the reason for denial, the amount of grant funding awarded, and the program's costs. This report is submitted to the Governor and Clerk of the Legislature no later than September 1 of each year for the prior fiscal year.

Sec. 6. The Commissioner may promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the act.

Sec. 7. This section establishes the Veterans Subsidized Training and Employment Program Fund, which will consist of money appropriated by the Legislature. The fund will be used to administer the act, and available funds will be invested pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. For FY 2015-16, \$2.5 million will be appropriated to the fund.

Burke Harr, Chairperson