

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1017

Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 05, 2016

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

One of the top concerns voiced by Nebraska employers is the shrinking pool of qualified employees – especially with a jobless rate under 3% and more than 50,000 current job openings. To help address Nebraska’s workforce challenge, the Legislature and former Governor Dave Heineman in 2011 established a unique grant program called the Intern Nebraska (InternNE) program. Administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, InternNE provides financial assistance to businesses that are willing to create new internships. Interns obtain valuable experience, while businesses develop future employees.

This bill would:

- Boost funding for the Nebraska Intern program by \$1.5 million for two consecutive fiscal years.
- Expand the eligibility of the intern program by allowing high school students in the 11th or 12th grade who attend a public or private high school. This provision is aimed at helping Nebraska communities retain young people.
- Eliminate the current law’s residency requirement for student interns under the Intern Nebraska program.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Brett Lindstrom