

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 260**

Introduced by Hansen, 26.

Read first time January 11, 2017

Committee: Agriculture

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture promotion; to amend section  
2 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for a state  
3 food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program; to provide duties  
4 for the Department of Agriculture; to state intent regarding  
5 appropriations; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original  
6 section.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 2-3815 (1) The Department of Agriculture shall establish an  
4 agriculture promotion and development program. The department shall  
5 employ a program director and one specialist in research techniques and  
6 market development. Both individuals shall report directly to the  
7 Director of Agriculture.

8 The program shall concentrate on the identification and development  
9 of opportunities to enhance profitability in agriculture and to stimulate  
10 agriculture-related economic development. Program activities may include,  
11 but not be limited to, (a) ~~(1)~~ promotion and market development, (b) ~~(2)~~  
12 value-added processing of alternative and traditional commodities, (c)  
13 ~~(3)~~ agricultural diversification, including poultry development and  
14 aquaculture, (d) ~~(4)~~ agricultural cooperatives, and (e) ~~(5)~~ alternative  
15 crops.

16 In order to carry out the purposes of this subsection ~~section~~, the  
17 program director may, if he or she deems necessary, convene an advisory  
18 committee to assist the program director in developing and implementing  
19 program activities. Representatives from the Nebraska Food Processing  
20 Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska,  
21 the commodity boards, the Department of Economic Development, the United  
22 States Department of Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector  
23 may serve on such committee at the request of the program director. If an  
24 advisory committee is convened, committee members shall not receive any  
25 reimbursement for expenses.

26 The Department of Agriculture shall serve as the facilitator,  
27 coordinator, and catalyst for developments through and with the Nebraska  
28 Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the  
29 University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the Department of Economic  
30 Development, other state agencies, the United States Department of  
31 Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector. It is the intent of

1 the Legislature that the department foster close working relationships  
2 between production agriculture and existing programs for the purposes of  
3 agricultural development and promotion. The department may enter into  
4 such contracts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
5 subsection ~~section~~.

6 For purposes of this subsection ~~section~~, unless the context  
7 otherwise requires, private sector shall include, but not be limited to,  
8 representatives of food industry associations, lenders, or venture  
9 capital groups.

10 (2) The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a  
11 state food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program. Such program may  
12 award state grants to grantees under the federal food insecurity  
13 nutrition incentive grant program established under the federal Food,  
14 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, as such act existed on January 1,  
15 2017, to offset startup and operational costs associated with projects  
16 awarded under the federal grant program. The department shall adopt and  
17 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this subsection.

18 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one hundred  
19 fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Department of  
20 Agriculture to carry out subsection (2) of this section.

21 Sec. 2. Original section 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
22 Nebraska, is repealed.