

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 70

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

Read first time July 29, 2024

Committee: Revenue

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to reimbursable performance-based grants; to
- 2 adopt the Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 10 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants Act.

3 Sec. 2. The purpose of the Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants
4 Act is to generate property tax relief through a reduction in
5 incarceration, poverty, and homelessness among young adults.

6 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants
7 Act:

8 (1) Department means the Department of Revenue; and

9 (2) Young adult means an individual who is at least eighteen years
10 of age and younger than twenty-six years of age.

11 Sec. 4. The department shall:

12 (1) Administer the Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants Act;

13 (2) Hire independent evaluators to ensure an objective assessment of
14 the outcomes under the act; and

15 (3) Hire financial analysts to quantify any monetary savings to the
16 State of Nebraska that result from reimbursable performance-based grants.

17 Sec. 5. The department shall establish metrics for social outcomes
18 for young adults relating to the following that are clear and measurable:

19 (1) Recidivism rates;

20 (2) Poverty levels;

21 (3) Employment; and

22 (4) Homelessness statistics.

23 Sec. 6. (1) An implementing organization may apply to the
24 department for a grant on a form prescribed by the department. As part of
25 its application, an implementing organization shall provide documentation
26 that it has secured initial funding which could be from internal
27 reserves, donations, investors, or loans.

28 (2) Within thirty days after receiving an application for a grant,
29 the department shall evaluate the social outcomes that will be provided
30 by the applicant based on the metrics established pursuant to section 5
31 of this act.

1 (3)(a) After performing the evaluation described in subsection (2)
2 of this section, the department may award a grant to any applicant that
3 the department determines will achieve at least one of the social
4 outcomes that is subject to the metrics established pursuant to section 5
5 of this act.

6 (b) The department shall provide written notice to each applicant of
7 the department's decision to award or not award a grant to such applicant
8 within forty days after receiving the application. Such written notice
9 shall be delivered via regular United States mail or electronic mail.

10 (c) An applicant that is denied a grant may appeal such denial as
11 described in section 7 of this act.

12 (4)(a) The department may award grants to any number of private-
13 sector entities in each year subject to money in the Reimbursable
14 Performance-Based Grants Fund appropriated for such purpose.

15 (b) A private-sector entity shall not be awarded more than one grant
16 in any calendar year.

17 Sec. 7. (1) The department shall provide to each applicant that is
18 denied a grant a detailed explanation that describes how to appeal such
19 denial.

20 (2) Any applicant that was denied a grant may appeal such denial as
21 prescribed by the department within thirty days after receiving written
22 notice of the denial.

23 (3) The department shall establish an independent review committee
24 to administer appeals of denied grant applications.

25 (4) Each appeal that follows all instructions prescribed by the
26 department shall be forwarded by the department to the independent review
27 committee. The independent review committee shall affirm or overturn the
28 department's decision to deny a grant application within sixty days after
29 the department receives the appeal from the applicant.

30 (5) The independent review committee shall provide written notice to
31 the department and the applicant of the independent review committee's

1 decision to affirm or overturn the department's decision.

2 (6) If the independent review committee overturns the department's
3 decision to deny a grant application, the department shall award the
4 applicant a grant pursuant to section 6 of this act.

5 Sec. 8. (1) The department shall electronically provide a report to
6 the Legislature and to the Governor not later than January 31 of each
7 year. The department shall provide an electronic copy of each such report
8 on the website of the department.

9 (2) Such report shall include the following information from the
10 most recent year:

11 (a) The number of applications received for grants;

12 (b) The number of grants awarded;

13 (c) The recipient of, amount of, and metrics for social outcomes
14 relating to each grant awarded; and

15 (d) The estimated difference in costs to the State of Nebraska
16 relating to correctional facilities and social services, including
17 incarceration, poverty, and homelessness, generated by awarding grants,
18 after subtracting the cost of administering the Reimbursable Performance-
19 Based Grants Act.

20 Sec. 9. If the difference in costs to the State of Nebraska under
21 subdivision (2)(d) of section 8 of this act is estimated to save the
22 State of Nebraska money, it is the intent of the Legislature to transfer
23 an amount of money equal to such estimated amount from the General Fund
24 to the Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants Fund, as determined by the
25 Legislature.

26 Sec. 10. The Reimbursable Performance-Based Grants Fund is created.
27 The department shall administer the fund for purposes of the Reimbursable
28 Performance-Based Grants Act. The fund shall consist of money transferred
29 to the fund by the Legislature and bequests, donations, gifts, grants, or
30 other money received from any federal or state agency or public or
31 private source. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be

- 1 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
- 2 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.