

LEGISLATIVE BILL 956

Approved by the Governor April 17, 2008

Introduced by Schimek, 27; Ashford, 20; Dubas, 34.

FOR AN ACT relating to the Job Training Cash Fund; to amend sections 81-1202 and 81-1205, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 81-1201.21, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007; to provide for small, rural, or poverty area employer grants; to change provisions relating to job training grants; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

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

Section 1. Section 81-1201.21, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, is amended to read:

81-1201.21 (1) There is hereby created the Job Training Cash Fund. The fund shall be under the direction of the Department of Economic Development. Money may be transferred to the fund pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv) of section 48-621 and from the Cash Reserve Fund at the direction of the Legislature. The department shall establish a subaccount for all money transferred from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Job Training Cash Fund on or after July 1, 2005. Any unexpended or unobligated balance remaining within such subaccount on July 1, 2010, shall be transferred by the State Treasurer to the Cash Reserve Fund no later than July 10, 2010. Any obligated amount not transferred from the subaccount that remains unexpended on July 1, 2009, shall be transferred by the State Treasurer to the Cash Reserve Fund no later than December 31, 2011.

(2) The department shall use the fund Job Training Cash Fund to provide reimbursements for job training activities, including employee assessment, preemployment training, on-the-job training, training equipment costs, and other reasonable costs related to helping industry and business locate or expand in Nebraska, or to provide upgrade skills training of the existing labor force necessary to adapt to new technology or the introduction of new product lines.

(3) The department shall establish a subaccount within the fund to provide job training grants targeted to small employers, rural employers, and poverty area employers meeting one of the following criteria: (a) Employ twenty-five or fewer employees, (b) located in rural areas of Nebraska, or (c) located in areas of high concentration of poverty within the corporate limits of a city or village consisting of one or more contiguous census tracts, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, which contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent, and all census tracts contiguous to such tract or tracts, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census. The department shall calculate the amount of prior year investment income earnings accruing to the fund and allocate such amount to the subaccount for small, rural, or poverty area employer grants.

(4) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 2. Section 81-1202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1202 For purposes of sections 81-1202 to 81-1210 and section 3 of this act, job training grant means a grant from the Job Training Cash Fund or any nonfederal funding source within the Department of Economic Development awarded by the department.

Sec. 3. Whenever practicable, the Department of Economic Development shall give priority consideration to training services offered by community college areas.

Sec. 4. Section 81-1205, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1205 A business which is awarded a job training grant shall provide annual performance reports to the Department of Economic Development and a final performance report upon the completion of the project. The department shall provide an annual report by December 1 of each year to the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature. The report shall include information on each active grant, including specific information regarding the number of positions to be trained, whether new or existing employees are to be trained, the length of time that the project has been active, the amount of funding committed to the project, the amount of funding paid out to date, and the projected completion date. The report shall also provide information

on grants closed during the reporting year, including the total number of employees trained, whether new or existing employees were trained, total project expenditures, and the duration time of the project. The department shall also provide information summarizing the use of community college areas to provide training services and list specific projects where a community college area is providing all or a component of the training services. If private or inhouse training services are used, the department shall provide information regarding the name of the private or inhouse training service and the qualifications of the training service.

Sec. 5. Original sections 81-1202 and 81-1205, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 81-1201.21, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, are repealed.