

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 514

Introduced by Harms, 48.

PURPOSE: The economic downturn has contributed to instability in Nebraska's workforce, particularly for lower-educated workers. Many such Nebraska workers are seeking to engage in adult education programs to improve their employability in a tough economy. In fact, the United States Department of Education finds that sixty percent of adult education programs in Nebraska currently have waiting lists. The purpose of this interim study is to examine Nebraska's capacity to best serve lower-educated workers through adult education programs. Nebraska's adult education programs serve a broad range of students with a variety of goals and needs. However, the current economic context provides an opportunity to examine ways to specifically serve adult education participants that have the goal of increasing their education level in order to gain employment or move up in the workforce. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following issues:

(1) An identification of the needs of lower-educated individuals engaging in adult education programs specifically for the purpose of gaining better employment;

(2) The number of adult education students who require more extensive basic education services before they will be able to

engage in work search or employment;

(3) Ways that Nebraska's adult education programs could better meet the demand for services, specifically for individuals seeking adult education in order to gain a better job;

(4) Whether the efforts of Nebraska's community colleges in providing adult basic education programs are being financially supported at an appropriate level to meet the demand that exists for these services;

(5) Ways that Nebraska's adult education instructors could be better supported to serve adult education students in need of education relating to employability; and

(6) A review of best practices from other states that could be implemented to help move more Nebraskans into higher education and better jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.