

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 382

Introduced by Cook, 13.

Read first time January 16, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Diploma of High School Equivalency
- 2 Assistance Act; to amend sections 79-2306 and 81-1201.21, Reissue
- 3 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to
- 4 grants; to provide a fund; to state intent relating to transfers; to
- 5 harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-2306, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 79-2306 (1) The ~~Using the funds allocated from the Education~~
4 ~~Innovation Fund pursuant to subdivision (4)(b)(viii) of section 9-812,~~
5 ~~the State Department of Education shall provide for grants to any entity~~
6 ~~each institution offering a high school equivalency program, which entity~~
7 ~~is not an institution. Grants pursuant to this section shall be awarded~~
8 ~~to applicants which meet the requirements of section 79-2304 a one-time~~
9 ~~payment for the acquisition and upgrade of equipment and software~~
10 ~~necessary to administer examinations for diplomas of high school~~
11 ~~equivalency.~~

12 (2) The High School Equivalency Grant Fund is created. Any money in
13 the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
14 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
15 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

16 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer [\$ XX] from the
17 Job Training Cash Fund to the High School Equivalency Grant Fund to carry
18 out the purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

19 Sec. 2. Section 81-1201.21, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 81-1201.21 (1) There is hereby created the Job Training Cash Fund.
22 The fund shall be under the direction of the Department of Economic
23 Development. Money may be transferred to the fund pursuant to subdivision
24 (1)(b)(iii) of section 48-621 and from the Cash Reserve Fund at the
25 direction of the Legislature. The department shall establish a subaccount
26 for all money transferred from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Job Training
27 Cash Fund on or after July 1, 2005.

28 (2) ~~The money in department shall use~~ the Job Training Cash Fund or
29 the subaccount established in subsection (1) of this section shall be
30 used (a) to provide reimbursements for job training activities, including
31 employee assessment, preemployment training, on-the-job training,

1 training equipment costs, and other reasonable costs related to helping
2 industry and business locate or expand in Nebraska, (b) to provide
3 upgrade skills training of the existing labor force necessary to adapt to
4 new technology or the introduction of new product lines, ~~or~~ (c) to
5 provide grants pursuant to section 81-1210.02, (d) or as provided in
6 section 79-2306. The department shall give a preference to job training
7 activities carried out in whole or in part within an enterprise zone
8 designated pursuant to the Enterprise Zone Act.

9 (3) The department shall establish a subaccount within the fund to
10 provide training grants for training employees and potential employees of
11 businesses that (a) employ twenty-five or fewer employees on the
12 application date, (b) employ, or train for potential employment,
13 residents of rural areas of Nebraska, or (c) are located in or employ, or
14 train for potential employment, residents of high-poverty areas as
15 defined in section 81-1203. The department shall calculate the amount of
16 prior year investment income earnings accruing to the fund and allocate
17 such amount to the subaccount for training grants under this subsection.
18 The subaccount shall also be used as provided in the Teleworker Job
19 Creation Act and as provided in section 81-1210.02. The department shall
20 give a preference to training grants for businesses located in whole or
21 in part within an enterprise zone designated pursuant to the Enterprise
22 Zone Act.

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

26 Sec. 3. Original sections 79-2306 and 81-1201.21, Reissue Revised
27 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.