

LEGISLATIVE BILL 382

Approved by the Governor May 27, 2015

Introduced by Cook, 13.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Diploma of High School Equivalency Assistance Act; to amend sections 79-2301 and 81-1201.21, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for grants to entities offering high school equivalency programs as prescribed; to create a fund; to state intent relating to transfers; to provide for use of the Job Training Cash Fund; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

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

Section 1. Section 79-2301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

79-2301 Sections 79-2301 to 79-2307 and section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Diploma of High School Equivalency Assistance Act.

Sec. 2. (1) The State Department of Education shall provide for grants to any entity offering a high school equivalency program, which entity is not an institution. Grants pursuant to this section shall be awarded to applicants which meet the requirements of section 79-2304.

(2) The High School Equivalency Grant Fund is created. 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.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer four hundred thousand dollars from the Job Training Cash Fund to the High School Equivalency Grant Fund to carry out the purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

Sec. 3. Section 81-1201.21, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 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)(iii) 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.

(2) The money in department shall use the Job Training Cash Fund or the subaccount established in subsection (1) of this section shall be used (a) 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, (b) to provide upgrade skills training of the existing labor force necessary to adapt to new technology or the introduction of new product lines, ~~or~~ (c) to provide grants pursuant to section 81-1210.02, or (d) as provided in section 2 of this act. The department shall give a preference to job training activities carried out in whole or in part within an enterprise zone designated pursuant to the Enterprise Zone Act.

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

(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. 4. Original sections 79-2301 and 81-1201.21, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.