

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1109

Introduced by Harr, 8.

Read first time January 18, 2018

Committee: Business and Labor

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to create the Grow
- 2 Nebraska Through Quality Employment Strategic Partnership; to
- 3 provide powers and duties for the partnership; and to provide a
- 4 termination date.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (a) The recent decline in revenue receipts makes it difficult for
3 the State of Nebraska to continue to support vital governmental services
4 and programs;

5 (b) The State of Nebraska has to be innovative in finding ways to
6 broaden its tax base;

7 (c) An important way to broaden the tax base is to increase the
8 number of individuals employed in high-quality, high-paying jobs; and

9 (d) The State of Nebraska needs to implement a unified vision and
10 strategy to develop and attract quality employment opportunities,
11 especially for upcoming generations, in order to broaden the tax base.

12 (2) The Department of Revenue, through collaboration with the
13 Department of Education, the Department of Labor, and the Department of
14 Economic Development, must strive to ensure that state programs view the
15 needs of youth, workers, and businesses comprehensively as a system,
16 including pooling funding when possible and appropriate.

17 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature in creating the Grow
18 Nebraska Through Quality Employment Strategic Partnership to provide for
19 the needs identified in this section.

20 Sec. 2. (1) As of September 1, 2018, the Grow Nebraska Through
21 Quality Employment Strategic Partnership is created as a high-level
22 leadership body to accomplish the following objectives:

23 (a) Develop a strategic plan for developing a high-quality, high-
24 paid workforce;

25 (b) Identify high-demand areas in our workforce;

26 (c) Identify barriers to teens and young adults entering into the
27 workforce;

28 (d) Identify workforce supply shortage areas;

29 (e) Identify legislative changes that would help incentivize
30 employment of teens and young adults;

31 (f) Identify regulatory changes that would help employ teens and

1 young adults;

2 (g) Identify strategic partners that need to be engaged to meet the
3 objectives of the strategic plan; and

4 (h) Develop a plan to align workforce supply with employment
5 demands.

6 (2) The partnership shall include the following voting members:

7 (a) The Tax Commissioner;

8 (b) The Director of Economic Development;

9 (c) The Commissioner of Labor or his or her designee;

10 (d) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

11 (e) Two members of the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the
12 Legislature; and

13 (f) The following members appointed by the Governor:

14 (i) One person from the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

15 (ii) One person from the Nebraska Association of School Boards;

16 (iii) One person from the faculty or administration of the
17 University of Nebraska;

18 (iv) One person from the Nebraska Community College Association;

19 (v) One person from the Nebraska State Education Association;

20 (vi) One person from the Nebraska Bankers Association; and

21 (vii) One business professional from each congressional district of
22 this state.

23 (3) The partnership shall meet no later than September 30, 2018. The
24 Tax Commissioner shall serve as the chairperson of the partnership and is
25 authorized to conduct any business necessary to the organization of the
26 partnership.

27 (4) The partnership shall meet at least once every three months.
28 Meetings of the partnership may be held at any time on the call of the
29 chairperson. The partnership may hire staff to carry out its
30 responsibilities. For administrative purposes, the offices of the staff
31 of the partnership shall be located in the Department of Revenue. The

1 partnership may hire a consultant with experience in facilitating
2 strategic planning to provide neutral, independent assistance in
3 developing a statewide strategic plan.

4 (5) Members of the partnership shall be reimbursed for their actual
5 and necessary expenses as members of such partnership as provided in
6 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. No member of the partnership shall have any
7 private financial interest, profit, or benefit from any work of the
8 partnership.

9 (6) On or before December 31, 2019, the partnership shall create a
10 statewide strategic plan to carry out the objectives identified in
11 subsection (1) of this section and shall release the strategic plan with
12 timelines, goals, measures, and partners necessary to carry out the plan.
13 The final plan shall be presented to the Governor and Legislature on or
14 before January 31, 2020. Any plan or report submitted to the Legislature
15 shall be submitted electronically.

16 (7) The partnership shall terminate on February 1, 2020, unless
17 continued by the Legislature.