

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1267**

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Aguilar, 35; Brewer, 43; Cavanaugh, J., 9;  
Cavanaugh, M., 6; Hansen, M., 26; Hilkemann, 4; McKinney,  
11; Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for
- 2 health equity liaisons; and to declare an emergency.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2           (1) One of the primary objectives of the federal American Rescue  
3 Plan Act of 2021 is to "address systemic public health and economic  
4 challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic";

5           (2) According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there  
6 are moderate to significant disparities between white residents and those  
7 identifying as African American, American Indian, and Hispanic in terms  
8 of perceived health status, health coverage, and ability to see a  
9 physician, among other reasons;

10           (3) Research has shown Nebraska has a wide divide in the race and  
11 ethnic demographics of the health care workforce and the projected  
12 demographic composition of the Nebraska population; and

13           (4) In furtherance of the goals of the federal American Rescue Plan  
14 Act of 2021, it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate Federal  
15 Funds to address the disparities as provided in sections 2 to 6 of this  
16 act.

17           Sec. 2. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal  
18 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on Indian Affairs to carry out  
19 subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this  
20 section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the  
21 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal  
22 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.  
23 9901.

24           (2)(a) The Commission on Indian Affairs shall employ or contract  
25 with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients,  
26 hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other  
27 stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the  
28 population served by the commission.

29           (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of  
30 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report  
31 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,

1 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population  
2 served by the commission.

3 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the  
4 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the  
5 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

6 Sec. 3. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal  
7 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
8 to carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds  
9 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of  
10 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant  
11 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,  
12 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

13 (2)(a) The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired shall  
14 employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison  
15 between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services,  
16 and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities  
17 for the population served by the commission.

18 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of  
19 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report  
20 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,  
21 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population  
22 served by the commission.

23 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the  
24 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the  
25 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

26 Sec. 4. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal  
27 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on African American Affairs to  
28 carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated  
29 in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska  
30 from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the  
31 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M,

1 Sec. 9901.

2 (2)(a) The Commission on African American Affairs shall employ or  
3 contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between  
4 patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and  
5 other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for  
6 the population served by the commission.

7 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of  
8 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report  
9 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,  
10 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population  
11 served by the commission.

12 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the  
13 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the  
14 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

15 Sec. 5. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal  
16 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to  
17 carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated  
18 in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska  
19 from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the  
20 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M,  
21 Sec. 9901.

22 (2)(a) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall employ  
23 or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between  
24 patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and  
25 other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for  
26 the population served by the commission.

27 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of  
28 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report  
29 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,  
30 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population  
31 served by the commission.

1       (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the  
2 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the  
3 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

4       Sec. 6. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal  
5 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on Latino-Americans to carry out  
6 subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this  
7 section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the  
8 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal  
9 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.  
10 9901.

11       (2)(a) The Commission on Latino-Americans shall employ or contract  
12 with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients,  
13 hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other  
14 stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the  
15 population served by the commission.

16       (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of  
17 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report  
18 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,  
19 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population  
20 served by the commission.

21       (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the  
22 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the  
23 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

24       Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
25 passed and approved according to law.