

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 225**

Introduced by Riepe, 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to determine ways to incentivize the growth in the number of apprenticeship programs and youth apprenticeship participants in Nebraska. The manufacturing sector of the Nebraska economy is one of the most important sectors of the Nebraska economy with wage rates that exceed the statewide average rate of pay. There are currently more than two thousand five hundred unfilled job openings in the manufacturing sector in Nebraska and that number does not include positions that employers would create if they could expand. Filling vacant positions and expansion of the manufacturing sector, particularly in rural Nebraska, is inhibited by the lack of an adequate number of job candidates.

Additionally, the construction and engineering sectors are in need of significant increases in their specialized workforce to support the infrastructure development needs of Nebraska. A strong infrastructure is critical to the economic stability and growth of Nebraska.

Developing apprenticeships for youth, former juvenile offenders, and individuals transitioning to independence after living in foster care would offer an opportunity for Nebraska to create a talent pipeline for these three critical sectors and retain youth in their local communities. This interim study should seek to identify barriers to growth to allow the Legislature to pursue data-driven policy solutions for these key industry sectors.

The study should include, but need not be limited to, data collection and information gathering regarding:

- (1) Apprenticeships in manufacturing, construction, and engineering in Nebraska and the impact of the apprenticeships on the state's economy;
- (2) The potential for increasing apprenticeship participation through

apprenticeships for youth, former juvenile offenders, and individuals transitioning to independence after living in foster care;

(3) The projected growth of Nebraska's manufacturing, construction, and engineering sectors; and

(4) The potential for growth of employment in the manufacturing, construction, and engineering sectors in Nebraska if an adequate workforce exists.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.