

AMENDMENTS TO LB 476

Introduced by Business and Labor

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following
2 new sections:

3 Section 1. Section 81-1201.21, Revised Statutes
4 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

5 81-1201.21 (1) There is hereby created the Job Training
6 Cash Fund. The fund shall be under the direction of the Department
7 of Economic Development. Money may be transferred to the fund
8 pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iii) of section 48-621 and from
9 the Cash Reserve Fund at the direction of the Legislature. The
10 department shall establish a subaccount for all money transferred
11 from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Job Training Cash Fund on or
12 after July 1, 2005.

13 (2) The department shall use the Job Training Cash Fund
14 or the subaccount established in subsection (1) of this section (a)
15 to provide reimbursements for job training activities, including
16 employee assessment, preemployment training, on-the-job training,
17 training equipment costs, and other reasonable costs related to
18 helping industry and business locate or expand in Nebraska, (b)
19 to provide upgrade skills training of the existing labor force
20 necessary to adapt to new technology or the introduction of new
21 product lines, or (c) to provide ~~job training~~ grants pursuant to
22 section 81-1210.02.

23 (3) The department shall establish a subaccount within

1 the fund to provide training grants for training employees and
2 potential employees of businesses that (a) employ twenty-five or
3 fewer employees on the application date, (b) employ, or train for
4 potential employment, residents of rural areas of Nebraska, or
5 (c) are located in or employ, or train for potential employment,
6 residents of high-poverty areas as defined in section 81-1203.
7 The department shall calculate the amount of prior year investment
8 income earnings accruing to the fund and allocate such amount
9 to the subaccount for training grants under this subsection. The
10 subaccount shall also be used as provided in the Teleworker Job
11 Creation Act and as provided in section 81-1210.02.

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

16 Sec. 2. Section 81-1210.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative
17 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

18 81-1210.01 For purposes of sections 81-1210.01 to
19 81-1210.03:

20 (1) Department means the Department of Economic
21 Development;

22 ~~(2) Distressed area means a municipality, county with a~~
23 ~~population of fewer than one hundred thousand inhabitants according~~
24 ~~to the most recent federal decennial census, unincorporated area~~
25 ~~within a county, or census tract in Nebraska that (a) has an~~
26 ~~unemployment rate which exceeds the statewide average unemployment~~
27 ~~rate, (b) has a per capita income below the statewide average per~~

1 capita income, or (c) had a population decrease between the two
2 most recent federal decennial censuses;

3 (3) Eligible company has the same meaning as qualified
4 business in subsection (1) of section 77-5715;

5 (4) Intern means any person who is working in a
6 professional environment for a limited period of time to gain
7 sufficient practical work experience in a professional or technical
8 position to allow for career decisionmaking and to provide
9 the employer valuable skills to accelerate short-term business
10 objectives and who (a) is enrolled full time in a four-year
11 college or university in Nebraska and has achieved junior or senior
12 status by such institution's criteria, (b) is enrolled full time
13 in a two-year college in Nebraska and has successfully completed
14 a minimum of one-half of the total credit hours required for an
15 associate degree, or (c) having residency in Nebraska, is enrolled
16 full time in a four-year college or university in a state other
17 than Nebraska and has achieved junior or senior status by such
18 institution's criteria; and

19 (5) (2) Internship means any internship that did
20 not exist before June 1, 2011. employment of a student in a
21 professional or technical position for a limited period of time, by
22 a business in Nebraska, in which the student (a) gains valuable
23 work experience, (b) increases knowledge that assists with career
24 decisionmaking, and (c) assists the business in accelerating
25 short-term business objectives; and

26 (3) Student means any person who:

27 (a) Is enrolled full-time in a college, university, or

1 other institution of higher education in Nebraska;

2 (b) Has residency in Nebraska and is enrolled full-time
3 in a college, university, or other institution of higher education
4 in a state other than Nebraska; or

5 (c) Applies for an internship within six months following
6 graduation from (i) a college, university, or other institution
7 of higher education in Nebraska or (ii) a college, university,
8 or other institution of higher education in a state other than
9 Nebraska if such person had residency in Nebraska during his or her
10 enrollment in such college, university, or institution.

11 Sec. 3. Section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative
12 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

13 81-1210.02 (1) The intent of sections 81-1210.01 to
14 81-1210.03 is to ~~connect Nebraska~~ provide students pursuing
15 postsecondary degrees with targeted industries with valuable
16 internship opportunities in order to retain such students and
17 attract workers to Nebraska by assisting ~~companies~~ Nebraska
18 businesses willing to provide paid internships.

19 (2) ~~An eligible company~~ A business may apply to the
20 department for a ~~job training~~ grant to assist in the hiring of an
21 ~~intern~~ providing a student an internship if:

22 (a) The ~~company~~ business certifies that the internship
23 meets the definition of internship in section 81-1210.01;

24 (b) The internship pays at least the federal minimum
25 ~~wage;~~

26 (c) The intern will work a minimum of two hundred hours
27 in a ~~twelve-week~~ period but no more than one thousand hours in a

1 ~~fifty-week period, and~~

2 ~~(d) The intern applies for the internship prior to~~
3 ~~graduation, even though the internship may be completed after~~
4 ~~graduation.~~

5 (b) The business will pay the student at least the
6 federal minimum hourly wage for the internship;

7 (c) The internship will be completed within the State of
8 Nebraska;

9 (d) The internship will be completed within a period of
10 no more than twelve months; and

11 (e) The internship will be for a duration sufficient to
12 allow the student to gain significant valuable work experience and
13 knowledge.

14 (3) The department may provide a job training grant of
15 grants for internships in the following amounts:

16 (a) If the student receiving the internship is a Federal
17 Pell Grant recipient at the time of grant application, the grant
18 may be up to the lesser of seventy-five percent of the cost
19 of the internship or seven thousand five hundred dollars. The
20 business applying for the grant shall provide the department with
21 documentation to prove that the student is a Federal Pell Grant
22 recipient; and

23 (b) For all other students, the grant may be up to
24 the lesser of ~~forty~~ seventy-five percent of the cost of the
25 internship or ~~three thousand five hundred dollars,~~ except that if
26 the internship is in a distressed area, the job training grant may
27 be up to the lesser of sixty percent of the cost of the internship

1 ~~or~~ five thousand dollars.

2 (4) ~~An eligible company~~ A business may apply for no more
3 than two ~~job training~~ grants for the same ~~intern,~~ student, shall
4 not be awarded more than five ~~job training~~ grants at any one
5 location in any twelve-month period, and shall not be awarded more
6 than ten ~~job training~~ grants total in any twelve-month period.

7 (5) ~~An eligible company~~ A business may allow an ~~intern a~~
8 student to telecommute if the ~~eligible company~~ business is located
9 more than thirty miles from the college, ~~or university,~~ or other
10 institution of higher education in which the ~~intern~~ student is
11 enrolled and if the college, ~~or university,~~ or other institution of
12 higher education is in Nebraska.

13 (6) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure
14 that the distribution of ~~job training~~ grants under sections
15 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 provides equitable access to the grants by
16 all geographic areas of the state.

17 (7) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure
18 that the grants awarded pursuant to sections 81-1210.01 to
19 81-1210.03 are for internships which provide valuable learning
20 opportunities for students who will be seeking employment in a
21 professional or technical field.

22 ~~(7)~~ (8) The department shall not allocate more than one
23 million five hundred thousand dollars in each ~~of FY2011-12 and~~
24 ~~FY2012-13~~ any one fiscal year from the Job Training Cash Fund or
25 its subaccounts for purposes of this section. The department may
26 receive funds from public, private, or other sources for purposes
27 of this section.

1 (9) The department shall develop a qualified action plan
2 by January 1 of each even-numbered year. The plan shall, at
3 a minimum, set forth the department's priorities and selection
4 criteria for awarding grants for internships. In order to encourage
5 students from across Nebraska to pursue internships, the plan shall
6 also include strategies for affirmatively marketing internships
7 to Nebraska students in high schools, colleges, universities,
8 and other institutions of higher education in Nebraska. Such
9 strategies shall place an emphasis on marketing to underserved
10 student populations as defined by the department in the plan. The
11 department shall submit the plan to the Governor for approval.

12 Sec. 4. Section 81-1210.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative
13 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

14 81-1210.03 The department may adopt and promulgate rules
15 and regulations to govern the award and disbursement of job
16 ~~training grants under section 81-1210.02.~~ pursuant to sections
17 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03.

18 Sec. 5. This act becomes operative on October 1, 2013.

19 Sec. 6. Original sections 81-1201.21, 81-1210.01,
20 81-1210.02, and 81-1210.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
21 2012, are repealed.