

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 987

Introduced by Morfeld, 46; Mello, 5; Williams, 36.

Read first time January 14, 2016

Committee: Executive Board

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to bioscience; to amend section 50-501,
- 2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to create a committee; to
- 3 provide for a study and strategic plan; to harmonize provisions; and
- 4 to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 50-501, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 50-501 (1) ~~The Legislature recognizes the importance of~~
4 ~~biotechnology and the role that biotechnology plays in the economic well-~~
5 ~~being of the State of Nebraska. The Natural Resources Committee of the~~
6 ~~Legislature shall be responsible for the development of a statewide~~
7 ~~strategic plan for biotechnology in Nebraska. The plan shall include a~~
8 ~~baseline review and assessment of the potential in the biotechnology~~
9 ~~economy in Nebraska and a strategic plan for the state's efforts in~~
10 ~~creating wealth and jobs in the biotechnology economy. The plan shall~~
11 ~~address strategies for developing the biotechnology economy and shall~~
12 ~~include, but not be limited to, research, testing, agricultural feedstock~~
13 ~~and chemicals, drugs and other pharmaceuticals, medical materials,~~
14 ~~medical laboratories, and advanced biofuels. The plan shall estimate the~~
15 ~~wealth and the number of jobs that may be generated from expanding the~~
16 ~~biotechnology economy.~~

17 (2) ~~The Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature, in~~
18 ~~consultation with the Executive Board of the Legislature, shall~~
19 ~~commission a nonprofit corporation to provide research, analysis, and~~
20 ~~recommendations to the committee for the development of the plan. The~~
21 ~~nonprofit corporation shall be incorporated pursuant to the Nebraska~~
22 ~~Nonprofit Corporation Act, shall be organized exclusively for nonprofit~~
23 ~~purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue~~
24 ~~Code as defined in section 49-801.01, shall be engaged in activities to~~
25 ~~facilitate and promote the growth of life sciences within Nebraska, shall~~
26 ~~be dedicated to the development and growth of the biotechnology economy,~~
27 ~~and shall agree to remit one hundred thousand dollars to the State~~
28 ~~Treasurer for credit to the Biotechnology Development Cash Fund for the~~
29 ~~research required by this section. The nonprofit corporation shall retain~~
30 ~~such consultation services as required for assistance in providing~~
31 ~~research, analysis, and recommendations. The nonprofit corporation shall~~

1 ~~present its research, analysis, and recommendations to the committee by~~
2 ~~September 30, 2010.~~

3 ~~(3) The Natural Resources Committee shall prepare and present to the~~
4 ~~Legislature a statewide strategic plan for biotechnology during the One~~
5 ~~Hundred Second Legislature, First Session, for consideration by the~~
6 ~~Legislature. The committee shall prepare annual updates to the plan for~~
7 ~~consideration by the Legislature.~~

8 (1) The Bioscience Steering Committee is created. The committee
9 shall consist of the chairperson of the Revenue Committee of the
10 Legislature and his or her designee, the chairperson of the
11 Appropriations Committee and his or her designee, and three members of
12 the Legislature selected by the Executive Board of the Legislative
13 Council.

14 (2) The committee shall conduct a study to measure the impact of the
15 bioscience economy in Nebraska and prepare a strategic plan for growing
16 the bioscience economy in Nebraska. The strategic plan shall report on
17 any progress or remaining work since the last study conducted on the
18 bioscience industry. The strategic plan shall further propose strategies
19 for developing the bioscience economy and shall include, but not be
20 limited to, strategies to (a) stimulate job growth in the fields of
21 science, technology, and engineering throughout Nebraska, (b) encourage
22 individuals and organizations engaged in the biotechnology businesses to
23 locate and expand in Nebraska, (c) capture and commercialize technology
24 that is discovered and developed in Nebraska, (d) grow Nebraska's
25 investment capital market and incentivize investment in life science
26 start-up companies, and (e) develop Nebraska's biotechnology workforce in
27 cooperation with higher education institutions. The strategic plan shall
28 estimate the wealth and number of jobs generated from expanding the
29 bioscience economy.

30 (3) The committee, in consultation with the executive board, shall
31 commission a nonprofit corporation to provide research, analysis, and

1 recommendations to the committee for the development of the study and
2 strategic plan. The nonprofit corporation shall be incorporated pursuant
3 to the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act, shall be organized exclusively
4 for nonprofit purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(6) of the
5 Internal Revenue Code as defined in section 49-801.01, shall be engaged
6 in activities to facilitate and promote the growth of life sciences
7 within Nebraska, and shall be dedicated to the development and growth of
8 the bioscience economy.

9 (4) The committee shall prepare and present electronically to the
10 Legislature a statewide strategic plan for the bioscience economy during
11 the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, First Session, for consideration by
12 the Legislature.

13 ~~(5)(a) (4) The Biotechnology Development Cash Fund is created. The~~
14 ~~Natural Resources Committee shall use money in the fund shall be used to~~
15 ~~commission the nonprofit corporation and provide access to resources~~
16 ~~necessary for developing the study and strategic plan.~~

17 ~~(b) The fund may receive gifts, bequests, grants, or other~~
18 ~~contributions or donations from public or private entities. Within five~~
19 ~~days after the State Treasurer receives one hundred thousand dollars from~~
20 ~~the nonprofit corporation for credit to the fund, the State Treasurer~~
21 ~~shall transfer one hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund to the~~
22 ~~Biotechnology Development Cash Fund. It is the intent of the Legislature~~
23 ~~to appropriate two hundred thousand dollars to the fund for fiscal year~~
24 ~~2009-10. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested~~
25 ~~by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital~~
26 ~~Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.~~

27 ~~(5) For purposes of this section:~~

28 ~~(a) Biotechnology means the technological application that uses~~
29 ~~biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives of biological~~
30 ~~systems or living organisms to make or modify products or processes for~~
31 ~~specific use; and~~

1 ~~(b) Biotechnology economy means economic activity derived from~~
2 ~~scientific and research activity focused on understanding mechanisms and~~
3 ~~processes at the genetic and molecular levels and the application of the~~
4 ~~mechanisms and processes to industrial processes.~~

5 Sec. 2. Original section 50-501, Reissue Revised Statutes of
6 Nebraska, is repealed.