

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 505

Introduced by Brewer, 43.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to refugees; to adopt the Refugee Resettlement
- 2 Notification Act; and to declare an emergency.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Refugee Resettlement Notification Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Refugee Resettlement Notification Act:

4 (1) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

5 (2) Refugee means any person who has been (a) approved refugee
6 status pursuant to section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8
7 U.S.C. 1157, or (b) granted asylum pursuant to section 208 of such act, 8
8 U.S.C. 1158; and

9 (3) Refugee resettlement agency means any public or private agency
10 which receives refugees for resettlement in the State of Nebraska.

11 Sec. 3. (1) The Legislature finds that current geopolitical events
12 such as civil war and persecution have caused a surge in the global
13 movement of immigrants and refugees seeking refuge outside of their
14 native countries and that the federal government is currently assisting
15 eligible refugees with resources and resettlement within the United
16 States by partnering with public and private refugee resettlement
17 agencies in the states, including the State of Nebraska.

18 (2) The Legislature further finds that certain regimes and terrorist
19 organizations engaging in civil war and persecution causing this surge of
20 people to seek refuge have declared their intent to exploit the refugee
21 resettlement and assistance programs of nations like the United States by
22 infiltrating the ranks of the refugee population for the purpose of
23 gaining entry into such nations to establish terror cells and carry out
24 terrorist attacks against innocent citizens.

25 (3) The Legislature recognizes that these regimes and terrorist
26 organizations have recently been successful in Europe and the United
27 States with their intent to exploit refugee programs by infiltrating
28 refugee populations or inspiring some people within such populations to
29 act on their terroristic goals.

30 (4) The Legislature also recognizes that the federal government has
31 not adequately supplied or appropriately informed the states with

1 essential information regarding the refugees being placed and resettled
2 into the states and the federal government's future intentions or
3 estimates for refugee resettlement and placement.

4 (5) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to require timely
5 and adequate reporting of information from refugee resettlement agencies
6 in Nebraska so that the citizens of Nebraska and their representatives in
7 the United States Congress, the Legislature, and the Governor's
8 administration can better make informed decisions regarding the trends,
9 feasibility, and the potential future security risks of refugee
10 resettlement programs.

11 Sec. 4. (1) On or before July 30, 2017, and December 31, 2017, and
12 each July and December thereafter, each refugee resettlement agency in
13 Nebraska shall submit a semi-annual report to the department which
14 contains: (a) A listing of how many refugees the agency has received for
15 resettlement for the reporting period, broken down by: (i) Month, (ii)
16 nation of origin or citizenship, (iii) age, (iv) sex, (v) family status,
17 (vi) nation of entry into the United States, and (vii) reason for refugee
18 or asylum status or designation of applicable federal refugee
19 resettlement program;

20 (b) Any state benefits obtained by such refugees with the assistance
21 of the agency, totaled by each state benefit program;

22 (c) The amount of federal assistance the agency has received from
23 the federal government by month and for the reporting period and any
24 amounts of federal assistance that were received by refugees with the
25 agency's assistance; and

26 (d) The agency's projected refugee resettlement numbers by nation of
27 origin for the next year.

28 (2) The department shall post the reports received under this
29 section on a web site administered by the department.

30 Sec. 5. On or before January 31, 2018, and each January 31
31 thereafter, the department shall:

1 (1) Collect and tabulate the number of refugees that have obtained
2 benefits for each state benefit program and the amount of such benefits;

3 (2) Compile the data from the reports submitted under section 4 of
4 this act for the preceding calendar year; and

5 (3) Compile the data from subsections (1) and (2) of this section
6 into a report which the department shall electronically submit to the
7 Legislature, the Governor, and each member of the state's congressional
8 delegation.

9 Sec. 6. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
10 regulations to carry out the Refugee Resettlement Notification Act and to
11 ensure the collection and reporting of consistent and compatible
12 information from refugee resettlement agencies.

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