

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 648

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Ebke, 32; Kolowski, 31; Morfeld, 46.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Executive Board

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to technology; to create and provide duties
- 2 for the New Machine Age Task Force.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The New Machine Age Task Force is created. The
2 executive committee of the task force shall consist of the following
3 voting members: (a) The chairperson of the Business and Labor Committee
4 of the Legislature or his or her designee; (b) the chairperson of the
5 Education Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee; (c) the
6 chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or
7 her designee; and (d) three at-large members appointed by the Executive
8 Board of the Legislative Council. The voting members of the executive
9 committee shall choose a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the
10 voting members.

11 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex officio members of the
12 executive committee of the task force: The Director of Economic
13 Development or his or her designee, the Commissioner of Labor or his or
14 her designee, the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee, the
15 Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or his or her designee,
16 the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center or his or her
17 designee, the Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System or his or
18 her designee, and the executive director of the Nebraska Community
19 College Association or his or her designee.

20 (3) The remaining members of the task force shall consist of at
21 least five nonvoting members appointed by the executive committee of the
22 task force through an application and selection process, representing (a)
23 business leaders and representatives from startup businesses (b) academic
24 experts in education and economic development issues, (c) workforce
25 development agencies, and (d) labor leaders. The members appointed
26 pursuant to this subsection shall constitute the advisory committee to
27 the task force.

28 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that, as noted by Erik Brynjolfsson
29 and Andrew McAfee in their bestselling book "The Second Machine Age"
30 written in 2014, "Technological progress is going to leave behind some
31 people, perhaps even a lot of people, as it races ahead. As we'll

1 demonstrate...there's never been a better time to be a worker with
2 special skills or the right education, because these people can use
3 technology to create and capture values. However, there's never been a
4 worse time to be a worker with only ordinary skills and abilities to
5 offer, because computers, robots, and other digital technologies are
6 acquiring these skills and abilities at an extraordinary rate."

7 Sec. 3. The New Machine Age Task Force created under section 1 of
8 this act shall examine the interaction between Nebraska policies,
9 programs, and initiatives, particularly in the areas of economic
10 development, business, labor, and education, and changing technologies,
11 automation, and replacement of human capital. The task force shall:

12 (1) Collect, examine, and analyze data and projections on automation
13 and technology, collect and analyze data and projections on labor market
14 trends, and collect data and analyze kindergarten through grade twelve
15 and postsecondary education performance;

16 (2) Obtain input from academic experts, including the University of
17 Nebraska;

18 (3) Encourage and obtain input from nonprofit organizations;

19 (4) Study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness of
20 policies, procedures, and programs implemented by other states in
21 planning for evolving technological changes;

22 (5) Identify policies, procedures, and programs, including any lack
23 of interagency data sharing, lack of policy coordination, or state or
24 local requirements and recommend changes to those policies and
25 procedures; and

26 (6) Create a long-range strategic plan containing measurable goals
27 and benchmarks to plan for Nebraska's future as that future relates to
28 the balance of technological advancement versus human capital and
29 resources.

30 Sec. 4. To accomplish its duties, the New Machine Age Task Force
31 created pursuant to section 1 of this act may request and receive from

1 any state or local governmental entity or institution information
2 relating to economic development, labor market trends, and educational
3 performance and appoint special committees to advise and assist the task
4 force. Members of any such special committee shall be appointed by the
5 chairperson of the task force and may be members of the task force or
6 individuals from the private sector or public sector. Any such special
7 committee shall report to the task force on the progress of the special
8 committee. Members of a special committee appointed under this section
9 may not receive reimbursement or payment for work done as members of the
10 special committee.

11 Sec. 5. On or before December 15, 2017, the New Machine Age Task
12 Force created pursuant to section 1 of this act shall submit a
13 preliminary report and on or before December 14, 2018, the task force
14 shall submit a final report to the Governor and electronically to the
15 Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The preliminary report and
16 the final report shall: (1) Include the long-range strategic plan
17 required in section 3 of this act; (2) describe how the task force
18 fulfilled its statutory purposes and duties during the time period
19 covered by the report; (3) describe policies, procedures, and programs
20 that have been implemented or modified to help plan for changing
21 technologies and technologies' impacts as they relate to whole sectors of
22 Nebraska's economy and job market; and (4) contain recommendations on how
23 the state should act to address issues relating to the new machine age.