

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 492

Introduced by Haar, 21.

Read first time January 20, 2009

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to state intent relating
2 to funding for certain positions at the University
3 of Nebraska-Lincoln as prescribed; and to declare an
4 emergency.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. It is the intent of sections 1 to 3 of this
2 act to provide transitional funding to allow the University of
3 Nebraska-Lincoln to add three new faculty positions before July 1,
4 2011, in areas most likely to contribute to the development of
5 wind energy generation capacity and infrastructure and associated
6 support industries in Nebraska. Such funding is intended to allow
7 the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to quickly establish research
8 and teaching capacity in areas critical to development of the
9 science, technology, and training required to support the rapidly
10 emerging wind energy industry. Such positions shall also be
11 centered in disciplines that (1) are competitive for external
12 grant funding from the federal government, the private sector,
13 and nonprofit foundations to support the research and (2) can
14 contribute to teaching and enrichment of existing courses and the
15 development of new courses that provide training and opportunities
16 for students interested in the science, technology, and economics
17 of wind energy systems.

18 Sec. 2. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to
19 provide funds over a six-year period sufficient for recruitment
20 of three new tenured or tenure-track faculty positions for the
21 purposes described in section 1 of this act, after which time the
22 University of Nebraska-Lincoln shall fund the positions from its
23 core budget of funds appropriated from the General Fund by the
24 Legislature.

25 (2) To carry out section 1 of this act, the Legislature

1 shall appropriate to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in
2 addition to any other funds appropriated to the University of
3 Nebraska-Lincoln:

4 (a) For the biennium ending June 30, 2011, two million
5 four hundred thousand dollars for one hundred percent of the costs
6 of recruitment, salaries, and startup for equipment, laboratory
7 renovation, and support staff;

8 (b) For the biennium ending June 30, 2013, seven hundred
9 fifty thousand dollars for seventy-five percent of faculty and
10 support staff salaries; and

11 (c) For the biennium ending June 30, 2015, three hundred
12 fifty thousand dollars for fifty percent of faculty and staff
13 salaries.

14 (3) For each fiscal year thereafter, all costs to support
15 the positions described in subsection (1) of this section shall be
16 paid by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from the General Fund
17 appropriation to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

18 Sec. 3. To identify the highest priorities for the types
19 of faculty positions to be recruited for purposes of section 1 of
20 this act, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln shall create an ad
21 hoc committee of external reviewers representing the key discipline
22 areas, including biophysical and social sciences, to evaluate
23 existing expertise in research and teaching relevant to wind energy
24 and provide a report on recommendations to the Chancellor of the
25 University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Members of such committee shall be

1 highly regarded academics who are recognized as leaders in wind
2 energy research and education. A business leader from Nebraska
3 shall also be appointed to such committee to ensure that the
4 specific comparative advantages and constraints in Nebraska are
5 considered by the committee.

6 The committee shall meet with administrators, college
7 deans, and department heads of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
8 members of the Legislature, and industry professionals during the
9 evaluation. Costs for such evaluation shall be paid out of funds
10 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2011.

11 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
12 when passed and approved according to law.