

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 1109

Approved by the Governor April 12, 2010

Introduced by Conrad, 46; Harms, 48; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Wightman, 36.

FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to amend section 81-12,105.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment Act; to provide for the lapse of the balance in the Microenterprise Development Cash Fund to the General Fund; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

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

Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment Act.

Sec. 2. The Legislature recognizes the importance of innovation and high wage employment and the role that innovation plays in the economic well-being of the state. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Task Force is created. The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall appoint six members of the Legislature to the task force. The executive board shall appoint one of such members as chairperson and one as vice-chairperson. The task force shall develop a statewide strategic plan to cultivate a climate of entrepreneurship that results in innovation and high wage employment. The task force shall adopt policy criteria to be used in the development of the plan. The plan shall include an inventory of current state and locally sponsored programs and resources targeted to small businesses, microenterprises, and entrepreneurial endeavors in the state. The plan shall provide an overview of best practices from other states, including, but not limited to, an examination of economic gardening and angel investor programs, and provide policy options.

Sec. 3. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Task Force, in consultation with the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, shall commission a nonprofit organization to provide research, analysis, and recommendations for the development of the statewide strategic plan. The nonprofit organization shall be incorporated pursuant to the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act, shall be organized exclusively for nonprofit purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, shall be engaged in activities to facilitate and promote the growth of potential high-growth businesses within the state, and shall be dedicated to the development and growth of the entrepreneurial economy. It is the intent of the Legislature that forty-eight thousand dollars of General Funds be appropriated to the Legislative Council to provide funding for the Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment Act.

Sec. 4. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Task Force shall prepare and present the statewide strategic plan to the Legislature by December 1, 2010.

Sec. 5. The Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment Act terminates on January 1, 2011.

Sec. 6. Section 81-12,105.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-12,105.01 (1) The Microenterprise Development Cash Fund is created. The fund shall be administered by the Department of Economic Development. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(2) The State Treasurer shall credit to the fund money as is (a) transferred to the fund by the Legislature, (b) paid to the state as fees, deposits, payments, and repayments relating to the fund, both principal and interest, (c) donated as gifts, bequests, or other contributions to such fund from public or private entities, and (d) made available by any department or agency of the United States if so directed by such department or agency.

(3) The fund shall be used by the Department of Economic Development for the purpose of carrying out the Microenterprise Development Act.

(4) The unexpended balance in the fund on July 6, 2010, shall lapse to the General Fund on such date.

Sec. 7. Original section 81-12,105.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

Sec. 8. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.