

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 335

Introduced by Mello, 5; Campbell, 25; Cook, 13; Howard, 9; Krist, 10;
McCollister, 20; Nordquist, 7.

Read first time January 15, 2015

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to create and
- 2 provide duties for the Intergenerational Poverty Task Force.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Intergenerational Poverty Task Force is created.
2 The executive committee task force shall consist of the following voting
3 members:

4 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
5 the Legislature;
6 (b) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
7 Legislature; and
8 (c) Three at-large members appointed by the Executive Board of the
9 Legislative Council.

10 The voting members of the executive committee shall choose a
11 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the voting members.

12 The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human
13 Services or his or her designee, the Commissioner of Labor, and the
14 Commissioner of Education shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the
15 executive committee of the task force.

16 (2) The remaining members of the task force shall be nonvoting
17 members appointed by the executive committee of the task force through an
18 application and selection process, representing (a) advocacy groups that
19 focus on childhood poverty issues and education issues, (b) academic
20 experts in childhood poverty or education, service providers, (c) service
21 providers, (d) educational institutions, (e) workforce development
22 agencies, and (f) experts in early childhood education. The members
23 appointed pursuant to this subsection shall constitute the advisory
24 committee to the task force.

25 Sec. 2. The Intergenerational Poverty Task Force shall:

26 (1) Share, examine, and analyze data and information regarding
27 intergenerational poverty in the state with a primary focus on data and
28 information regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of
29 poverty unless outside intervention is made and develop effective and
30 efficient plans, programs, and recommendations to help children described
31 in subdivision (1) of this section escape the cycle of poverty;

1 (2) Encourage participation and input from academic experts,
2 advocacy groups, nonprofit corporations, local governments, and faith-
3 based institutions in exploring strategies and solutions to help children
4 who are victims of intergenerational poverty escape the cycle of poverty;

5 (3) Study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness of
6 policies, procedures, and programs implemented by other states and by
7 nongovernmental entities that address the needs of and that provide
8 services to children affected by intergenerational poverty;

9 (4) Identify policies, procedures, and programs, including any lack
10 of interagency data sharing, lack of policy coordination, or current
11 federal requirements, that are impeding efforts to help children in the
12 state affected by intergenerational poverty escape the cycle of poverty
13 and recommend changes to those policies and procedures;

14 (5) Create a long-range strategic plan containing:

15 (a) Measurable goals and benchmarks, including future action needed
16 to attain those goals and benchmarks, for decreasing the incidence of
17 intergenerational poverty among the state's children and increasing the
18 number of the state's children who escape the cycle of poverty; and

19 (b) Recommended data-supported changes to policies, procedures, and
20 programs to address the needs of children affected by intergenerational
21 poverty and to help those children escape the cycle of poverty, including
22 the steps that will be required to make the recommended changes and
23 whether further action is required by the Legislature or the federal
24 government; and

25 (6) Protect the privacy of individuals living in poverty by using
26 and distributing the data it collects or examines in compliance with
27 federal requirements and with sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.

28 Sec. 3. To accomplish its duties, the Intergenerational Poverty
29 Task Force may:

30 (1) Request and receive from any state or local governmental entity
31 or institution information relating to poverty in the state, including

1 reports, audits, data, projections, and statistics; and
2 (2) Appoint special committees to advise and assist the task force.
3 Members of any such special committee shall be appointed by the
4 chairperson of the task force and may be members of the task force or
5 individuals from the private or public sector. A special committee shall
6 report to the task force on the progress of the special committee.
7 Members of a special committee appointed under this section may not
8 receive reimbursement or pay for work done in relation to the special
9 committee.

10 Sec. 4. (1) On or before November 1 of each year, the
11 Intergenerational Poverty Task Force shall submit a report (a) to the
12 Governor and (b) electronically to the Executive Board of the Legislative
13 Council.

14 (2) The report shall:

15 (a) Include the long-range strategic plan required pursuant to
16 section 2 of this act;

17 (b) Describe how the task force fulfilled its statutory purposes and
18 duties during the time period covered by the report;

19 (c) Describe policies, procedures, and programs that have been
20 implemented or modified to help break the cycle of poverty for children
21 affected or at risk of being affected by intergenerational poverty; and

22 (d) Contain recommendations on how the state should act to address
23 issues relating to breaking the cycle of poverty for children affected or
24 at risk of being affected by intergenerational poverty.