

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 905

Introduced by Ebke, 32.

Read first time January 12, 2016

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health; to adopt the Commission on
- 2 Fathers, Men, and Boys Establishment Act of 2016.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys Establishment Act of
3 2016.

4 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

5 (1) Children in father-absent environments are almost four times
6 more likely to live in poverty;

7 (2) Children in father-absent environments are more likely to use
8 drugs and alcohol;

9 (3) Children in single-parent homes are more than twice as likely to
10 commit suicide;

11 (4) Children in father-absent households have significantly lower
12 educational attainment;

13 (5) Adolescents in single-parent families and stepfamilies are more
14 likely to engage in juvenile delinquency;

15 (6) Children in father-absent households have a significantly higher
16 risk of being victimized by crime, including sexual assault and domestic
17 violence;

18 (7) Adolescents in father-absent households are more likely to
19 report being sexually active and increase the risk of teen pregnancy,
20 marrying with less than a high school diploma, and forming a marriage
21 where both partners have less than a high school diploma;

22 (8) Male educational attainment trails that of females. The
23 percentage of females who have completed a bachelor's degree or higher is
24 six points higher than the percentage of males. The percentage of females
25 who have completed a master's degree or higher is fifty percent higher
26 than the percentage of males; and

27 (9) Men commit suicide at nearly four times the rate of women and
28 represent almost seventy-eight percent of all suicides. The suicide rate
29 for middle-aged men has risen by forty percent since 2008.

30 Sec. 3. The Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys is created to
31 advise the Governor, the Legislature, the courts, and the public on the

1 issues and needs of fathers, men, and boys in the State of Nebraska.

2 Sec. 4. (1) The Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys shall consist
3 of ten members. Five members shall be appointed by the Governor and five
4 ex officio members shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the
5 Legislative Council.

6 (2) Members of the commission shall be Nebraska residents.

7 (3) Members shall be appointed to serve terms of four years and
8 shall serve until their successors are appointed. A member of the
9 commission may be reappointed.

10 (4) Whenever a vacancy occurs on the commission, a successor shall
11 be appointed to fill the unexpired portion of the term. The Governor
12 shall appoint a successor to a vacancy in a seat originally filled by the
13 Governor and the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall appoint
14 a successor to a vacancy in a seat originally filled by the executive
15 board.

16 (5) The Governor shall designate the chairperson from among the
17 members appointed, who shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of
18 the Governor.

19 (6) Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed
20 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
21 their duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

22 (7) If determined to be necessary to perform the duties of the
23 commission, the commission may hire, contract, or otherwise obtain the
24 services of consultants, researchers, aides, and other necessary support
25 staff with prior approval of the chairperson of the executive board.

26 (8) The Governor may remove, after notice and hearing, any member of
27 the commission for neglect of duty, incompetence, misconduct, or
28 malfeasance in office.

29 Sec. 5. (1) The duties of the Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys
30 shall include, but are not limited to:

31 (a) Advocate for fathers, men, and boys residing in Nebraska by

1 advising and making recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and
2 the courts concerning the needs of Nebraska residents related to or
3 concerning fathers, men, and boys;

4 (b) Research, review, maintain, and disseminate empirical data,
5 statistics, and facts concerning or attributable to fatherhood and family
6 socio-economic issues;

7 (c) Stimulate and encourage the dialogue of responsible fatherhood
8 and spur community initiatives to combat fatherlessness;

9 (d) Prepare and recommend to the Governor and the Legislature an
10 annual plan of programs and services focused on issues related to
11 fathers, men, and boys;

12 (e) Work with Nebraska agencies, the private sector, and local
13 communities to promote a healthier societal impact on fathers, men, and
14 boys; and

15 (f) Nominate special advisors to serve and provide technical and
16 expert advice on specific and particular matters relevant to the
17 functions of the commission.

18 (2) The commission shall devise policies and procedures that will
19 effectively address the socioeconomic concerns of fathers, men, and boys,
20 including:

21 (a) Employment;

22 (b) Poverty;

23 (c) Fatherlessness;

24 (d) Family law;

25 (e) Health and well-being; and

26 (f) Post-incarceration, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

27 (3) The commission may apply for and receive grants to fund programs
28 and initiatives in compliance with applicable law, including federal
29 grants-in-aid for fatherhood, children, and family initiatives.

30 (4) The commission may accept private gifts and donations to carry
31 out the purposes of the Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys

1 Establishment Act of 2016.