

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 527

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

Read first time January 22, 2019

Committee: Business and Labor

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to amend section
- 2 48-622.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; to adopt
- 3 the Customized Job Training Act; and to repeal the original section.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Customized Job Training Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Customized Job Training Act shall be administered by
4 the Department of Economic Development to provide funds in the form of
5 grants to employers for reimbursement of job training expenses as set
6 forth in the act.

7 Sec. 3. The Customized Job Training Cash Fund is created. Funds in
8 the Customized Job Training Cash Fund shall be used for (1) general
9 administrative costs of awarding job training reimbursement grants under
10 the Customized Job Training Act and (2) job training reimbursement
11 grants. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
12 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
13 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

14 Sec. 4. (1) Employers applying for job training reimbursement
15 grants under the Customized Job Training Act shall apply to the
16 Department of Economic Development. The department shall provide job
17 training reimbursement grants for job training programs for jobs that are
18 net new jobs. The job training reimbursement grants shall be in
19 proportion to the committed number of net new jobs created. The amount of
20 each grant and number of grants awarded shall be determined by the
21 department based upon available funding.

22 (2) The department shall create a job training reimbursement grant
23 application, have authority to approve applications, and authorize the
24 total amount of job training reimbursement grants expected to be awarded
25 as a result of the training if the Director of Economic Development is
26 satisfied that the plan in the application defines training that meets
27 the eligibility requirements.

28 (3) The department shall submit an annual report electronically to
29 the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature that includes the total
30 number of job training reimbursement grants awarded, the total dollar
31 amount of job training reimbursement grants awarded and to whom, the

1 total expenditures made in administering the Customized Job Training Act,
2 the number of individuals trained, the average wage of net new jobs, and
3 a summary of the training provided.

4 Sec. 5. (1) In order for an employer to apply for a job training
5 reimbursement grant under the Customized Job Training Act:

6 (a) The jobs being trained for must be net new jobs; and

7 (b) The jobs being trained for must meet or exceed the Nebraska
8 average annual wage.

9 (2) Training may be provided by:

10 (a) The community college system or any accredited postsecondary
11 educational institution; or

12 (b) Any qualified training provider if the training results in:

13 (i) A national, state, or locally recognized certificate;

14 (ii) Preparation for a professional examination or licensure;

15 (iii) Endorsement for an existing credential or license; or

16 (iv) Development of recognized skill standards as defined by an
17 industrial sector.

18 Sec. 6. An employer receiving a grant shall provide to the
19 Department of Economic Development documentation:

20 (1) Showing the completion of the net new job training. The
21 department may require reimbursement of any funds for training not
22 meeting eligibility requirements.

23 (2) Showing that the employer has maintained or exceeded its current
24 level of training expenditures.

25 Sec. 7. Section 48-622.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
26 2018, is amended to read:

27 48-622.01 (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury a
28 special fund to be known as the State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
29 All state unemployment insurance tax collected under sections 48-648 to
30 48-661, less refunds, shall be paid into the fund, except that the first
31 six hundredths of one percent collected shall be deposited in the

1 Customized Job Training Cash Fund. Such money shall be held in trust for
2 payment of unemployment insurance benefits. Any money in the fund
3 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
4 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
5 State Funds Investment Act, except that interest earned on money in the
6 fund shall be credited to the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund at
7 the end of each calendar quarter.

8 (2) The commissioner shall have the authority to determine when and
9 in what amounts withdrawals from the State Unemployment Insurance Trust
10 Fund for payment of benefits are necessary. Amounts withdrawn for payment
11 of benefits shall be immediately forwarded to the Secretary of the
12 Treasury of the United States of America to the credit of the state's
13 account in the Unemployment Trust Fund, any provision of law in this
14 state relating to the deposit, administration, release, or disbursement
15 of money in the possession or custody of this state to the contrary
16 notwithstanding.

17 (3) If and when the state unemployment insurance tax ceases to exist
18 as determined by the Governor, all money then in the State Unemployment
19 Insurance Trust Fund less accrued interest shall be immediately
20 transferred to the credit of the state's account in the Unemployment
21 Trust Fund, any provision of law in this state relating to the deposit,
22 administration, release, or disbursement of money in the possession or
23 custody of this state to the contrary notwithstanding. The determination
24 to eliminate the state unemployment insurance tax shall be based on the
25 solvency of the state's account in the Unemployment Trust Fund and the
26 need for training of Nebraska workers. Accrued interest in the State
27 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund shall be credited to the Nebraska
28 Training and Support Cash Fund.

29 Sec. 8. Original section 48-622.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative
30 Supplement, 2018, is repealed.