

AMENDMENTS TO LB851

Introduced by Business and Labor.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2022, is amended to read:

5 81-1210.02 (1) The intent of sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 is to
6 provide students with valuable internship opportunities in order to
7 retain such students in the State of Nebraska at institutions of higher
8 education, convert students to full-time employment in Nebraska, and
9 attract workers to Nebraska by assisting Nebraska businesses willing to
10 provide paid internships.

11 (2) A business may apply to the department for a grant to assist in
12 providing a student an internship if:

13 (a) The business certifies that the internship meets the definition
14 of internship in section 81-1210.01;

15 (b) The business will pay the student at least the state minimum
16 hourly wage for the internship;

17 (c) The internship will be completed within the State of Nebraska;

18 (d) The internship will be completed within a period of no more than
19 twenty-four months; and

20 (e) The internship will be for a duration sufficient to allow the
21 student to gain significant valuable work experience and knowledge.

22 (3)(a) The department may provide grants for internships to
23 reimburse the cost of wages paid to businesses with less than one hundred
24 fifty full-time-equivalent employees.

25 (b) The department may also provide grants for internships to any
26 business to reimburse the costs for any of the following:

27 (i) Tuition reimbursement for courses at institutions of higher

1 education;

2 (ii) Internship housing;

3 (iii) Transportation expenses relating to internships; and

4 (iv) Internship administrative or recruitment costs.

5 (c) The maximum grant award per internship is seven thousand five
6 hundred dollars.

7 (4) A business may apply for no more than two grants for the same
8 student and shall not be awarded more than one hundred grants total in
9 any twelve-month period.

10 (5) A business may allow a student to telecommute if the business is
11 located in Nebraska and ~~more than thirty miles from~~ the college,
12 university, or other institution of higher education in which the student
13 is enrolled and ~~if the college, university, or other institution of~~
14 ~~higher education~~ is in Nebraska.

15 (6) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure that the
16 distribution of grants under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 provides
17 equitable access to the grants by all geographic areas of the state.

18 (7) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure that the
19 grants awarded pursuant to sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 are for
20 internships which provide valuable learning opportunities for students
21 who will be seeking employment in a professional or technical field.

22 (8) The department shall not allocate more than one million five
23 hundred thousand dollars in any one fiscal year from the Job Training
24 Cash Fund or its subaccounts for purposes of this section. The department
25 may receive funds from public, private, or other sources for purposes of
26 this section.

27 (9) The department shall develop a qualified action plan by January
28 1 of each even-numbered year. The plan shall, at a minimum, set forth the
29 department's priorities and selection criteria for awarding grants for
30 internships. In order to encourage students from across Nebraska to
31 pursue internships, the plan shall also include strategies for

1 affirmatively marketing internships to Nebraska students in high schools,
2 colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education in
3 Nebraska. Such strategies shall place an emphasis on marketing to
4 underserved student populations as defined by the department in the plan.
5 The department shall submit the plan to the Governor for approval.

6 (10) The department shall execute a memorandum of understanding with
7 the Department of Labor before December 31, 2022, to ensure the exchange
8 of available Department of Labor data throughout the continuum from
9 prekindergarten to postsecondary education to the workforce. The
10 department may utilize data and agreements under sections 79-776, 85-110,
11 85-309, and 85-1511.

12 (11) The department shall submit an annual report to the Governor
13 and the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year which includes, but
14 is not limited to, a description of the demand for internship grants and
15 programs under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 from all geographic
16 regions in Nebraska, a listing of the recipients and amounts of
17 internship grants awarded in the previous fiscal year, the impact of the
18 internship grants, and an evaluation of the internship grants and
19 programs under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 based on the documented
20 goals of the recipients. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be
21 submitted electronically. The department may require recipients to
22 provide periodic performance reports to enable the department to fulfill
23 the requirements of this subsection. The report shall contain no
24 information that is protected by state or federal confidentiality laws.

25 (12) The department may enter into a contract with a Nebraska-based
26 nonprofit entity for the purposes of carrying out any or all of the
27 provisions of sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03.

28 Sec. 2. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2024.

29 Sec. 3. Original section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative
30 Supplement, 2022, is repealed.

31 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when

1 passed and approved according to law.