

AMENDMENTS TO LB993

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM2373)

Introduced by Wishart, 27.

1 1. Strike amendments 1, 2, and 3 and insert the following new
2 amendment:

3 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
4 insert the following new sections:

5 Section 1. Sections 1 to 10 of this act shall be known and may be
6 cited as the Apprenticeship Grant Act.

7 Sec. 2. The purpose of the Apprenticeship Grant Act is to provide
8 underemployed and unemployed individuals with job training and classroom
9 instruction opportunities in order to earn a livable wage and reduce
10 their reliance on economic assistance programs and increase the number of
11 Nebraska businesses willing to offer apprenticeships to Nebraska workers.

12 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Apprenticeship Grant Act, unless the
13 context otherwise requires:

14 (1) Apprentice means any person who participates in an
15 apprenticeship;

16 (2) Apprenticeship means supervised on-the-job training with
17 technical classroom instruction on subjects related to the apprentice's
18 chosen occupation;

19 (3) Covered entity has the same meaning as in 15 U.S.C. 4651;

20 (4) Department means the Department of Economic Development;

21 (5) Economic assistance program includes aid to dependent children;
22 aid to the aged, blind, and disabled; the Supplemental Nutrition
23 Assistance Program; medicaid; child care; emergency assistance; energy
24 assistance; social services block grants; and other similar programs
25 administered by the Department of Health and Human Services;

26 (6) Registered apprenticeship program means an apprenticeship

1 program registered under the National Apprenticeship Act, 29 U.S.C. 50 et
2 seq.; and

3 (7) SNAP Next Step Program has the same meaning as in section
4 68-1017.02.

5 Sec. 4. (1) A business may apply to the department for a grant to
6 assist in providing an information technology apprenticeship, an
7 agriculture or diesel mechanic apprenticeship, or a semiconductor worker
8 program apprenticeship if:

9 (a) The business certifies that:

10 (i) The apprenticeship is part of a registered apprenticeship
11 program;

12 (ii) The apprenticeship is part of a micro credential program at an
13 institution of higher education that has a curriculum developed to meet
14 the demand for microchip fabrication and microelectronics manufacturing
15 in Nebraska. Such program shall meet the requirements of the federal
16 CHIPS Act of 2022, Public Law 117-167; or

17 (iii) The business is a Nebraska-based covered entity and the
18 apprentice has completed a micro credential program described in
19 subdivision (a)(ii) of this subsection and has an income below two
20 hundred percent of the federal poverty level;

21 (b) The apprentice participates in the SNAP Next Step Program or
22 programs affiliated with the Nebraska Workforce Innovation and
23 Opportunity Act;

24 (c) The business intends to offer the apprentice full-time
25 employment upon the successful completion of the apprenticeship that
26 includes a wage sufficient to reduce participation in economic assistance
27 programs; and

28 (d) The apprenticeship will be completed within the State of
29 Nebraska.

30 (2)(a) The department may provide grants for apprenticeships to any
31 business to reimburse the costs for:

1 (i) Wages for apprentices; or
2 (ii) Tuition for apprentices to participate in classroom instruction
3 at institutions of higher education.

4 (b) The maximum grant award per apprentice under this section is
5 thirty-seven thousand dollars.

6 (3) A business may apply for no more than one grant for the same
7 apprentice and shall not be awarded more than five grants total in any
8 twelve-month period.

9 Sec. 5. (1) An apprentice may apply to the department for a grant to
10 pay for child care costs while training as an apprentice in a building or
11 construction trade. To qualify for such grant the apprentice shall be:

12 (a) Represented by an organization described in section 501(c)(5) of
13 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

14 (b) Employed by a redeveloper, contractor, or subcontractor that is
15 participating in a registered apprenticeship program with a training
16 facility located in Nebraska.

17 (2)(a) The department may provide grants to apprentices to pay child
18 care costs.

19 (b) The maximum total amount of any grants awarded per apprentice
20 under this section is thirty-seven thousand dollars.

21 (3) The department shall recover any grant awarded to an apprentice
22 under this section if such apprentice does not complete the
23 apprenticeship in which the apprentice was participating at the time of
24 receiving the grant.

25 Sec. 6. (1) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure
26 that the distribution of grants under the Apprenticeship Grant Act
27 provides equitable access to the grants by all geographic areas of the
28 state.

29 (2) The department shall not award more than four million dollars of
30 grants under the Apprenticeship Grant Act in any one fiscal year.

31 (3) The department shall develop a qualified action plan by January

1 1 of each odd-numbered year. The plan shall, at a minimum, set forth the
2 department's priorities and selection criteria for awarding grants for
3 apprenticeships. The department shall submit the plan to the Governor for
4 approval.

5 (4) The department shall execute memorandums of understanding with
6 the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services
7 before December 31, 2024, to ensure the exchange of data regarding
8 registered apprenticeship programs and the SNAP Next Step Program. The
9 memorandum of understanding with the Department of Health and Human
10 Services shall require the Department of Health and Human Services to
11 provide de-identified data concerning the number of Supplemental
12 Nutrition Assistance Program recipients that find self-sufficient
13 employment and the estimated savings to the Supplemental Nutrition
14 Assistance Program.

15 (5) The department shall submit an annual report to the Governor and
16 the Legislature on or before October 1, 2025, and on or before October 1
17 of each year thereafter which includes, but is not necessarily limited
18 to, a description of the demand for apprenticeship grants under the
19 Apprenticeship Grant Act from all geographic regions in Nebraska, a
20 listing of the recipients and amounts of apprenticeship grants awarded in
21 the previous fiscal year, the number of apprentices that were employed by
22 grant recipients upon the completion of an apprenticeship in the previous
23 fiscal year, and de-identified data regarding the number of Supplemental
24 Nutrition Assistance Program recipients that find self-sufficient
25 employment and the estimated savings to the Supplemental Nutrition
26 Assistance Program. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be
27 submitted electronically. The department may require recipients to
28 provide periodic performance reports to enable the department to fulfill
29 the requirements of this subsection. The report shall contain no
30 information that is protected by state or federal confidentiality laws.

31 Sec. 7. (1) The Apprenticeship Advisory Board is created for the

1 purpose of carrying out the Apprenticeship Grant Act.

2 (2) The board shall consist of five members appointed by the
3 Director of Economic Development as follows:

4 (a) One member affiliated with a nonprofit organization that (i) is
5 headquartered in Nebraska and (ii) represents any organization
6 participating in a registered apprenticeship program;

7 (b) One member affiliated with a building and trade construction
8 council that operates in Nebraska;

9 (c) One member affiliated with a registered apprenticeship program;

10 (d) One member affiliated with an equipment dealer association that
11 operates in Nebraska; and

12 (e) One member affiliated with an institution of higher education
13 that participates in a micro credential program for microchip fabrication
14 and microelectronics manufacturing.

15 (3) No member of the board shall receive any pay or compensation for
16 any services rendered as a member of the board.

17 Sec. 8. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
18 regulations to govern the award and disbursement of grants pursuant to
19 the Apprenticeship Grant Act.

20 Sec. 9. (1) The Apprenticeship Nebraska Cash Fund is created. The
21 fund shall be used to carry out the Apprenticeship Grant Act. The fund
22 shall consist of money transferred to the fund by the Legislature and
23 money donated as gifts, bequests, or other contributions from public or
24 private entities. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
25 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
26 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

27 (2) The department, or any entity with which the department
28 contracts for such purpose, may use up to five percent of any
29 appropriation to carry out the Apprenticeship Grant Act for
30 administrative services.

31 (3) The State Treasurer shall transfer any money in the

- 1 Apprenticeship Nebraska Cash Fund on June 30, 2030, to the General Fund.
- 2 Sec. 10. The Apprenticeship Grant Act terminates on June 30, 2030.