

AMENDMENTS TO LB536

Introduced by Banking, Commerce and Insurance.

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

3 **Section 1.** Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be
4 cited as the Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce Development Pilot
5 Investment Act.

6 **Sec. 2.** The purpose of the Manufacturing Modernization and
7 Workforce Development Pilot Investment Act is to:

8 (1) Provide one-time grants to eligible manufacturing operations for
9 new and existing capital investments that will increase or lead to the
10 adoption and integration of smart technologies and increased
11 productivity; and

12 (2) Provide a positive economic impact in the State of Nebraska.

13 **Sec. 3.** For purposes of the Manufacturing Modernization and
14 Workforce Development Pilot Investment Act:

15 (1) Department means the Department of Labor;

16 (2) Eligible manufacturing operation means a manufacturer of goods
17 at a facility located in this state that:

18 (a) Has a North American Industry Classification System number
19 within the manufacturing sector range of 31 to 33;

20 (b) Has been an established business for a minimum of three years
21 prior to the date of application for the grant;

22 (c) Derives a minimum of fifty-one percent of the manufacturer's
23 gross revenue from the sale of manufactured goods;

24 (d) Employs a minimum of three full-time employees; and

25 (e) Demonstrates the ability to provide private matching financial
26 support for the manufacturer's manufacturing modernization investment
27 project on a one-to-one basis;

1 (3) Manufacturing modernization investment project means a project
2 that is intended to lead to the adoption and integration of smart
3 technologies into existing manufacturing operations located in the state
4 by mitigating the risk to the manufacturer of significant technology
5 investments. Manufacturing modernization investment project includes, but
6 is not limited to, an investment in the following that are intended to
7 assist a manufacturer in increasing the manufacturer's productivity,
8 efficiency, and competitiveness:

9 (a) Job training; and

10 (b) Specialized hardware, software, or other equipment; and

11 (4) Private matching financial support means any financial support
12 derived from a source other than a direct appropriation from the State of
13 Nebraska or its political subdivisions.

14 **Sec. 4.** (1) Beginning October 1, 2025, through November 1, 2026, an
15 eligible manufacturing operation may apply to the department for a grant.
16 The application shall include, but not be limited to, the following
17 information:

18 (a) A description of the manufacturing modernization investment
19 project;

20 (b) The estimated cost of the manufacturing modernization investment
21 project; and

22 (c) Documentation on the amount of private matching financial
23 support available for the manufacturing modernization investment project
24 that has been received or will be received by the eligible manufacturing
25 operation. Such amount shall be at least equal to the amount of any grant
26 received under the act. The documentation provided under this subdivision
27 does not need to identify any provider of private matching financial
28 support.

29 (2) The department shall consider applications in the order in which
30 they are received. If an applicant is an eligible manufacturing operation
31 and otherwise qualifies for a grant, the department shall, subject to

1 subsection (3) of this section, approve the application and notify the
2 applicant of the approval.

3 (3) The department may approve applications within the limits of
4 available funding under the Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce
5 Development Pilot Investment Act. The amount of any grant approved shall
6 be equal to the amount of money supplied by the eligible manufacturing
7 operation from providers of private matching financial support, as
8 documented under subdivision (1)(c) of this section, except that no grant
9 shall be for more than fifty thousand dollars.

10 **Sec. 5.** (1) The department shall not approve an application for a
11 manufacturing modernization investment project that was commenced prior
12 to the date of the application.

13 (2) Any eligible manufacturing operation that no longer meets the
14 requirements of subdivision (2) of section 3 of this act shall repay any
15 grant funds received under the Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce
16 Development Pilot Investment Act.

17 **Sec. 6.** The department may award up to two hundred fifty thousand
18 dollars in grants from the Workforce Development Program Cash Fund for
19 purposes of carrying out the Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce
20 Development Pilot Investment Act.

21 **Sec. 7.** The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
22 regulations to carry out the Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce
23 Development Pilot Investment Act.

24 **Sec. 8.** Section 81-407, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 81-407 (1) The Workforce Development Program Cash Fund is hereby
27 created. The fund shall consist of transfers authorized by the
28 Legislature.

29 (2) The Department of Labor shall administer the fund to provide
30 workforce development grants. The fund may be used:

31 (a) To provide workforce development grants; and

1 (b) For purposes of the Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce
2 Development Pilot Investment Act.

3 (3) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
4 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
5 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

6 **Sec. 9.** Original section 81-407, Reissue Revised Statutes of
7 Nebraska, is repealed.

8 **Sec. 10.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
9 passed and approved according to law.