

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1352

Approved by the Governor April 7, 2000

Introduced by Janssen, 15; Baker, 44; Bohlke, 33; Hudkins, 21; Schimek, 27

AN ACT relating to public assistance; to amend section 68-1708, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998; to create a task force; to provide powers and duties; to provide a termination date; to harmonize provisions; to eliminate provisions relating to trusts; to repeal the original section; to outright repeal section 68-1047, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Electronic Benefit System Task Force is established.

(2) The task force shall provide recommendations and assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Policy Cabinet during and following the development and implementation of an electronic benefit system as permitted in section 68-1725 and shall monitor the development and implementation of such system. The task force shall specifically provide recommendations and assistance relating to, but not limited to, the development of policies for implementation of electronic benefit transfers, determination of costs and savings realized by implementation of electronic benefit transfers, and vendor criteria and selection.

(3) The task force shall include the following members:

(a) The State Treasurer or his or her designee;

(b) The Director of Administrative Services or his or her designee;

(c) The Director of Banking and Finance or his or her designee;

(d) The Director of Health and Human Services or his or her designee;

(e) The executive director of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association or his or her designee;

(f) The president of the Nebraska Electronic Transfer System, Inc. or his or her designee;

(g) One representative of the banking industry appointed by the Governor;

(h) Two representatives of the retail grocery industry appointed by the Governor. The representatives shall be chosen so as to be representative of different sizes of grocery stores;

(i) Three persons appointed by the Governor who are currently receiving public assistance or representing organizations that advocate for such persons;

(j) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature; and

(k) One member of the Legislature appointed by the chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

(4) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than May 1, 2000. Members of the task force shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The task force shall meet at least quarterly during the development and implementation of the electronic benefit system and shall meet only quarterly thereafter. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. Action by the task force on any item shall require a majority vote of all members present at meetings at which there is a quorum.

(5) By December 1, the State Treasurer shall prepare an annual report of any findings and recommendations of the task force and progress of the development and implementation of the electronic benefit system and shall provide such report to the Governor and the Legislature.

(6) The task force and this section shall terminate on January 1, 2004.

Sec. 2. Section 68-1708, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, is amended to read:

68-1708. Sections 68-1708 to 68-1734 and section 1 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Welfare Reform Act.

Sec. 3. Original section 68-1708, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, is repealed.

Sec. 4. The following section is outright repealed: Section 68-1047, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when

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passed and approved according to law.