LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 39

Introduced by Blood, 3.
Read first time January 05, 2023
Committee: Executive Board

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Legislature; to state findings; to
2 provide for disability impact statements for legislation; and to
3 provide powers and duties for the office of Legislative Research.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Disparities exist for people with disabilities in this state. The causes of such disparities are varied and socioeconomic and include differences in employment, health, public safety, and education outcomes. One of the principal causes of such disparities is the legislative policies underlying the creation and modification of statutes relating to or impacting persons with disabilities;

(2) The Legislature has an obligation to reduce the disparities for persons with disabilities and to identify legislative bills that are likely to exacerbate or ameliorate existing disparities or create new ones. The preparation of disability impact statements for certain legislative bills will help the Legislature meet this responsibility; and

(3) A disability impact statement is an explanatory statement summarizing the expected impact a legislative bill may have on certain identifiable persons. Disability impact statements can assist legislators by identifying and evaluating the anticipated potential disparities of proposed legislation prior to its adoption and implementation and can assist legislators in detecting otherwise unforeseen policy ramifications.

Sec. 2. (1) Beginning in the second session of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, the office of Legislative Research shall prepare and provide disability impact statements for legislative bills as designated by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The primary focus for preparation of such disability impact statements shall be legislative bills that relate to or otherwise affect persons with disabilities and that, if passed, may have a disparate impact on such persons.

(2) A disability impact statement shall clearly summarize the estimated impact of a legislative bill on persons with disabilities in the state and the estimated impact of the legislative bill in creating new disparities or exacerbating or ameliorating existing disparities. A disability impact statement may include any relevant research on the
historical impact of similar legislative bills previously enacted. A
disability impact statement shall reflect any data or methods used to
measure such disability impact.

(3) The office of Legislative Research may request the cooperation
of any state agency, political subdivision, accredited academic
institution, or subject matter expert in the preparation of a disability
impact statement or in the collection of any data or information
necessary to prepare such disability impact statement.

Sec. 3. (1) The Director of Research shall develop a process and
procedures by which to request, compile, prepare, and update demographic
data and other information used in disability impact statements provided
pursuant to section 2 of this act and submit a report on such process and
procedures to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The report
shall be submitted electronically no later than December 15, 2023.

(2) With executive board approval, the Director of Research may seek
and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any entity, public or
private, for the purpose of training staff or purchasing technology to
carry out section 2 of this act.