

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 851

Introduced by Jacobson, 42.

Read first time January 03, 2024

Committee: Business and Labor

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Economic Development; to
- 2 amend section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 3 2022; to change provisions relating to internship grants; to provide
- 4 an operative date; to repeal the original section; and to declare an
- 5 emergency.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

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

3 81-1210.02 (1) The intent of sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 is to
4 provide students with valuable internship opportunities in order to
5 retain such students in the State of Nebraska at institutions of higher
6 education, convert students to full-time employment in Nebraska, and
7 attract workers to Nebraska by assisting Nebraska businesses willing to
8 provide paid internships.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (i) Tuition reimbursement for courses at institutions of higher
26 education;

27 (ii) Internship housing;

28 (iii) Transportation expenses relating to internships; and

29 (iv) Internship administrative or recruitment costs.

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

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

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

9 (5) ~~(6)~~ The department shall, to the extent possible, assure that
10 the distribution of grants under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03
11 provides equitable access to the grants by all geographic areas of the
12 state.

13 (6) ~~(7)~~ The department shall, to the extent possible, assure that
14 the grants awarded pursuant to sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 are for
15 internships which provide valuable learning opportunities for students
16 who will be seeking employment in a professional or technical field.

17 (7) ~~(8)~~ The department shall not allocate more than one million five
18 hundred thousand dollars in any one fiscal year from the Job Training
19 Cash Fund or its subaccounts for purposes of this section. The department
20 may receive funds from public, private, or other sources for purposes of
21 this section.

22 (8) ~~(9)~~ The department shall develop a qualified action plan by
23 January 1 of each even-numbered year. The plan shall, at a minimum, set
24 forth the department's priorities and selection criteria for awarding
25 grants for internships. In order to encourage students from across
26 Nebraska to pursue internships, the plan shall also include strategies
27 for affirmatively marketing internships to Nebraska students in high
28 schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher
29 education in Nebraska. Such strategies shall place an emphasis on
30 marketing to underserved student populations as defined by the department
31 in the plan. The department shall submit the plan to the Governor for

1 approval.

2 (9) ~~(10)~~ The department shall execute a memorandum of understanding
3 with the Department of Labor before December 31, 2022, to ensure the
4 exchange of available Department of Labor data throughout the continuum
5 from prekindergarten to postsecondary education to the workforce. The
6 department may utilize data and agreements under sections 79-776, 85-110,
7 85-309, and 85-1511.

8 (10) ~~(11)~~ The department shall submit an annual report to the
9 Governor and the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year which
10 includes, but is not limited to, a description of the demand for
11 internship grants and programs under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03
12 from all geographic regions in Nebraska, a listing of the recipients and
13 amounts of internship grants awarded in the previous fiscal year, the
14 impact of the internship grants, and an evaluation of the internship
15 grants and programs under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 based on the
16 documented goals of the recipients. The report submitted to the
17 Legislature shall be submitted electronically. The department may require
18 recipients to provide periodic performance reports to enable the
19 department to fulfill the requirements of this subsection. The report
20 shall contain no information that is protected by state or federal
21 confidentiality laws.

22 (11) ~~(12)~~ The department may enter into a contract with a Nebraska-
23 based nonprofit entity for the purposes of carrying out any or all of the
24 provisions of sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03.

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

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

28 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
29 passed and approved according to law.