

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1285**

Introduced by Walz, 15; Dungan, 26.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to labor; to create the Task Force on
- 2 Supported Employment.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Task Force on Supported Employment is created. The  
2 task force shall study the barriers to supporting individuals with  
3 intellectual and developmental disabilities in attaining and maintaining  
4 employment. The task force shall provide recommendations to the  
5 Legislature, the Governor, and state agencies.

6           Sec. 2. (1) The Task Force on Supported Employment shall consist of  
7 the following voting members who shall be appointed no later than  
8 September 1, 2024:

9           (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of  
10 the Legislature or designee;

11           (b) A member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature  
12 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

13           (c) A member of the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature  
14 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

15           (d) A representative of the Governor's office appointed by the  
16 Governor;

17           (e) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and  
18 Human Services or designee;

19           (f) The executive director of the Nebraska Planning Council on  
20 Developmental Disabilities or designee;

21           (g) Two service providers with eight or more years of experience and  
22 a high success rate in delivering supported employment to individuals  
23 with a broad range of disabilities appointed by the Governor;

24           (h) A representative of a chamber of commerce appointed by the  
25 Governor;

26           (i) Two self-advocates with at least five years of experience in  
27 employment appointed by the Governor;

28           (j) A certified community work incentives coordinator or community  
29 partner work incentives counselor appointed by the Governor; and

30           (k) A special education transition coordinator appointed by the  
31 Commissioner of Education.

1           (2) The task force shall consist of the following nonvoting members:

2           (a) A representative of a Nebraska organization that advocates for  
3 the rights of individuals with disabilities appointed by the Governor;

4           (b) A representative from the University Center for Excellence in  
5 Developmental Disability Education, Research and Service of the Munroe-  
6 Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center appointed by  
7 the Governor;

8           (c) An employee of the State Department of Education Vocational  
9 Rehabilitation Department appointed by the Commissioner of Education;

10           (d) An employee of the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the  
11 Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the Governor;

12           (e) An employee of the Division of Behavioral Health of the  
13 Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the Governor;

14           (f) An employee of the Department of Labor appointed by the  
15 Governor; and

16           (g) A supported employment expert who has assisted in other states  
17 appointed by the Governor.

18           Sec. 3. The Task Force on Supported Employment shall:

19           (1) Review the 2023 report "Necessity or Luxury?" prepared for the  
20 Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Nebraska  
21 2023 Supported Employment Action Plan and provide tangible solutions to  
22 fulfill the recommendations;

23           (2) Review the recommendations resulting from the study authorized  
24 in Laws 2022, LB376; and

25           (3) Create a report with an action plan for the executive branch of  
26 state government, relevant state agencies, the Legislature, and  
27 businesses which shall include, but not be limited to, the:

28           (a) Barriers to entry in the workforce for individuals with  
29 intellectual and developmental disabilities;

30           (b) Number of individuals that would be able to join the workforce  
31 with changed requirements; and

1           (c) Ways in which additional working hours impact benefits received  
2 by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

3           Sec. 4. The Task Force on Supported Employment shall submit a  
4 report electronically to the Legislature and Governor no later than  
5 December 1, 2025.