

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1167

Introduced by Flood, 19.

Read first time January 19, 2022

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the Department of Economic Development and to the
- 3 Department of Labor; and to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) The COVID-19 public health emergency (i) affected the economic
3 well-being of workers, households, and businesses, (ii) impacted the
4 demand for labor, and (iii) changed the skills required for the
5 workforce; and

6 (b) It is the policy of this state to respond to harmful economic
7 disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, which
8 caused disruptions in job retention and household and business
9 stabilization, by increasing (i) opportunities, placements, and retention
10 of internships across Nebraska, (ii) apprenticeship and workforce
11 training programs across Nebraska, (iii) employment opportunities for
12 skilled workers in Nebraska, and (iv) wages for Nebraska workers.

13 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$30,000,000 from Federal Funds for
14 FY2021-22 to the Department of Economic Development for enhancing and
15 retaining Nebraska's workforce. The Federal Funds appropriated in this
16 section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the
17 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal
18 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.
19 9901.

20 (3)(a) The Department of Economic Development shall use thirty
21 million dollars of the funds appropriated in this section for an
22 internship grant program.

23 (b) The Department of Economic Development may create a program to
24 administer the grants awarded pursuant to this section.

25 (c) Any program created by the Department of Economic Development
26 pursuant to this subsection shall be coordinated and administered in
27 compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

28 Sec. 2. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

29 (a) The COVID-19 public health emergency (i) affected the economic
30 well-being of workers, households, and businesses, (ii) impacted the
31 demand for labor, and (iii) changed the skills required for the

1 workforce; and

2 (b) It is the policy of this state to respond to harmful economic
3 disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, which
4 caused disruptions in job retention and household and business
5 stabilization, by increasing (i) opportunities, placements, and retention
6 of internships across Nebraska, (ii) apprenticeship and workforce
7 training programs across Nebraska, (iii) employment opportunities for
8 skilled workers in Nebraska, and (iv) wages for Nebraska workers.

9 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$20,000,000 from Federal Funds for
10 FY2021-22 to the Department of Labor for enhancing and retaining
11 Nebraska's workforce. The Federal Funds appropriated in this section are
12 from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal
13 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American
14 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

15 (3)(a) The Department of Labor shall use the funds appropriated in
16 this section for a grant program to expand Nebraska's workforce.

17 (b) The Department of Labor may create a program to administer the
18 grants pursuant to this section to Nebraska businesses, economic
19 development or workforce organizations, political subdivisions, nonprofit
20 organizations, and education partners to support training, upskilling,
21 apprenticeship, and apprenticeship program development proposals.

22 (c) Any program created by the Department of Labor pursuant to this
23 subsection shall be coordinated and administered in compliance with the
24 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

25 Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
26 passed and approved according to law.