

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 773

Introduced by Stinner, 48.

Read first time January 07, 2016

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to early childhood; to create the Early
- 2 Childhood Workforce Development Task Force; to provide for
- 3 appointment of members; to require a report; and to declare an
- 4 emergency.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Early Childhood Workforce Development Task Force
2 is created. The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of
3 Nebraska shall facilitate the task force.

4 (2) The task force shall include the following members:

5 (a) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

6 (b) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and
7 Human Services or his or her designee;

8 (c) The Commissioner of Labor or his or her designee;

9 (d) The executive director of the Coordinating Commission for
10 Postsecondary Education or his or her designee;

11 (e) The executive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute
12 or his or her designee who shall serve as chair of the task force;

13 (f) A representative from the University of Nebraska, other than the
14 representative from the Buffett Early Childhood Institute;

15 (g) One representative from the Nebraska state colleges;

16 (h) Two representatives from the community college areas, including
17 one representative from either the Nebraska Indian Community College or
18 the Little Priest Tribal College;

19 (i) One representative from a statewide organization representing
20 the interests of private colleges and universities in Nebraska;

21 (j) One representative from a statewide organization representing
22 the interests of school teachers;

23 (k) Two representatives from school districts with high
24 concentrations of poverty. One representative shall be from an urban area
25 and one from a rural area;

26 (l) Two representatives who work as child care providers in areas
27 with high concentrations of poverty. One practitioner shall be from an
28 urban area and one from a rural area;

29 (m) Two representatives from a statewide organization representing
30 the interests of the federal Head Start or Early Head Start program
31 providers;

1 (n) Two representatives from different private philanthropic
2 organizations;

3 (o) One representative of a Nebraska affiliate of a national child
4 care accreditation organization; and

5 (p) One representative from the business community.

6 (3) The representatives described in subdivisions (2)(f) through (p)
7 of this section shall be selected by an application process administered
8 by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. The Buffett Early Childhood
9 Institute shall also fill any vacancies of such representatives on the
10 task force.

11 (4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any person from a state
12 agency, university, state college, or community college area from
13 attending task force meetings or activities as a nonvoting
14 representative.

15 Sec. 2. (1) The task force shall develop and submit a report to the
16 Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2017. The report to the
17 Legislature shall be submitted electronically. The report shall include:

18 (a) A description of the statewide needs for early childhood care
19 and education professionals;

20 (b) The program environment and professional competencies necessary
21 to close the achievement gap for children at risk of failing in school
22 from birth through the third grade;

23 (c) An evaluation of the sufficiency of current state systems to
24 meet the needs of early childhood care and education professionals, how
25 to deliver the competencies described in subdivision (b) of this
26 subsection, and a determination of whether additional pathways are
27 necessary for the preparation and training of such professionals;

28 (d) A comprehensive statewide plan for the preparation and training
29 of early childhood care and education professionals. The comprehensive
30 statewide plan shall (i) ensure sufficient pathways of preparation and
31 training exist, (ii) align the various pathways of preparation and

1 training, (iii) strengthen the coordination between the various
2 universities, colleges, state agencies, and community organizations
3 preparing and training early childhood care and education professionals,
4 and (iv) describe the actions, methods, steps, and timelines necessary to
5 implement the plan; and

6 (e) Any recommendations for changes in early childhood care and
7 education programs, policies, legislation, and funding.

8 (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the task force from
9 developing and submitting one or more reports with any or all of the
10 findings described in this section at any time prior to December 1, 2017.

11 (3) The Task Force shall terminate on December 31, 2017.

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