

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 354

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to assess state-led programs pertaining to the Nebraska workforce. It is challenging for employers to navigate and understand all available resources and qualifications to access such resources, such as worker training, job training, workforce development, customized job training, apprenticeships, and other programs and grants.

The study shall analyze state funding, policies, and initiatives addressing workforce needs and shortages and examine the accessibility of current programs offered by the Department of Labor, Department of Economic Development, Department of Health and Human Services, and State Department of Education and whether they are meeting the growing workforce needs in Nebraska.

The study shall further examine how to coordinate and increase opportunities for all Nebraskans to enter and advance in these programs, how to align and expand education and training, and how to strengthen the capacity, diversity, development, and retention of the Nebraska workforce.

The study shall also include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Existing pathway programs and educational initiatives that train or upskill workers in Nebraska;

(2) Current state funding sources and programs that invest in the workforce in Nebraska, including worker training, workforce development, worker retention and recruitment, and career and technical education;

(3) How programs are marketed and applications are sought;

(4) How funds are distributed and how applications are scored, including the application approval rates and whether those denied have opportunity to receive technical assistance and appeal;

(5) Opportunities to align or improve systems that support Nebraska's workforce in underserved and high-need communities across the state;

(6) Alternative paths for public-private partnerships to address future workforce needs and requirements; and

(7) The following issues relating to the State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund:

(a) How the fund is used for workforce programs;

(b) Whether excess funds should be directed to additional workforce training and development purposes;

(c) What constitutes an adequate level of funding;

(d) Alternative legislative paths to establish a trust fund cap and redirect excess funds or dissolve the trust fund and identify alternative sources for the worker training; and

(e) Current legal parameters for the use of the fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.