

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 842**

Final Reading

Introduced by Harms, 48; Mello, 5.

Read first time January 06, 2012

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to public assistance; to amend section 68-1721,  
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change a  
3 termination date relating to duties of an applicant  
4 family; to require the Department of Health and Human  
5 Services to collect certain data regarding aid to  
6 dependent children and to provide a report; and to repeal  
7 the original section.  
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 68-1721, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           68-1721 (1) Under the self-sufficiency contract developed  
4 under section 68-1719, the principal wage earner and other nonexempt  
5 members of the applicant family shall be required to participate in  
6 one or more of the following approved activities, including, but not  
7 limited to, education, job skills training, work experience, job  
8 search, or employment.

9           (2) Education shall consist of the general education  
10 development program, high school, Adult Basic Education, English as a  
11 Second Language, postsecondary education, or other education programs  
12 approved in the contract.

13           (3) Job skills training shall include vocational training  
14 in technical job skills and equivalent knowledge. Activities shall  
15 consist of formalized, technical job skills training,  
16 apprenticeships, on-the-job training, or training in the operation of  
17 a microbusiness enterprise. The types of training, apprenticeships,  
18 or training positions may include, but need not be limited to, the  
19 ability to provide services such as home repairs, automobile repairs,  
20 respite care, foster care, personal care, and child care. Job skills  
21 training shall be prioritized and approved for occupations that  
22 facilitate economic self-sufficiency.

23           (4) The purpose of work experience shall be to improve  
24 the employability of applicants by providing work experience and  
25 training to assist them to move promptly into regular public or

1 private employment. Work experience shall mean unpaid work in a  
2 public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit business or organization.  
3 Work experience placements shall take into account the individual's  
4 prior training, skills, and experience. A placement shall not exceed  
5 six months.

6 (5) Job search shall assist adult members of recipient  
7 families in finding their own jobs. The emphasis shall be placed on  
8 teaching the individual to take responsibility for his or her own job  
9 development and placement.

10 (6) Employment shall consist of work for pay. The  
11 employment may be full-time or part-time but shall be adequate to  
12 help the recipient family reach economic self-sufficiency.

13 (7) For purposes of creating the self-sufficiency  
14 contract and meeting the applicant's work activity requirement, an  
15 applicant shall be allowed to engage in vocational training that  
16 leads to an associate degree, a diploma, or a certificate for a  
17 minimum of twenty hours per week for up to thirty-six months. This  
18 subsection terminates on ~~September 30, 2012.~~ December 31, 2016.

19 Sec. 2. The Department of Health and Human Services shall  
20 collect the following data and information yearly:

21 (1) The total number of participants in the aid to  
22 dependent children program described in section 43-512 pursuing an  
23 associate degree;

24 (2) Graduation rates of such participants, the number of  
25 participants that are making satisfactory progress in their

1 educational pursuits, and the length of time participants participate  
2 in education to fulfill their work requirement under the program;

3 (3) The monthly earnings, educational level attained, and  
4 employment status of such participants at six months and at twelve  
5 months after terminating participation in the aid to dependent  
6 children program; and

7 (4) A summary of activities performed by the department  
8 to promote postsecondary educational opportunities to participants in  
9 the aid to dependent children program.

10 Sec. 3. (1) The Department of Health and Human Services  
11 shall provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later  
12 than December 1 each year regarding the data and information  
13 collected pursuant to section 2 of this act, including a summary of  
14 such data and information.

15 (2) The data and information collected under such section  
16 shall be considered a public record under section 84-712.01.

17 Sec. 4. Original section 68-1721, Reissue Revised  
18 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.