

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 205

Introduced by Mello, 5; Conrad, 46; Cook, 13; Council, 11; Harr, 8;
Larson, 40; McGill, 26; Nordquist, 7.

Read first time January 07, 2011

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to amend section
2 81-1178, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to create
3 the Next Generation Nebraska Commission; to state intent;
4 to provide duties for the commission; to harmonize
5 provisions; to provide a termination date; and to repeal
6 the original section.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

2 (a) The phenomenon known as brain drain has had a
3 substantial impact on Nebraska's population trends. Census data for
4 the year 2000 rated Nebraska as the tenth most heavily outmigrated
5 state for young, single, college-educated people; and

6 (b) The Department of Economic Development's Battelle
7 study released in 2010 recognized brain drain as a gap that must be
8 bridged in order to address the challenges related to the demand and
9 availability of a high-skilled work force in Nebraska.

10 (2) The Next Generation Nebraska Commission is
11 established within the Department of Economic Development. The
12 commission shall consist of fifteen voting members appointed by the
13 Governor with the approval of the Legislature and four nonvoting, ex
14 officio members who are members of the Legislature appointed by the
15 Executive Board of the Legislative Council. Of the fifteen voting
16 members, no more than eight shall come from the same political party,
17 and of the four nonvoting, ex officio members, no more than two shall
18 come from the same political party. Five voting members shall be
19 appointed from each of the three congressional districts based on the
20 congressional boundaries as designated by the Legislature after the
21 2010 federal decennial census. Eight voting members shall constitute
22 a quorum. Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, an
23 affirmative vote of a majority of voting members, excluding any
24 member who has a conflict of interest, is necessary for the
25 commission to take substantive action.

1 (3) Each member of the commission shall be appointed for
2 a term of two years, except that the appointments of the initial
3 members shall be made on or before October 1, 2011, and the terms
4 shall be as follows: Eight voting members and the four nonvoting, ex
5 officio members shall be appointed to serve until January 1, 2013,
6 and seven voting members shall be appointed to serve until January 1,
7 2014. Each subsequent two-year term shall begin on January 1. Each
8 voting member shall be, at the time of his or her appointment, at
9 least eighteen years of age but less than forty years of age. In the
10 event of a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment in the
11 same manner as the original member was appointed, and the individual
12 so appointed shall serve for the balance of the original term.
13 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation and
14 without reimbursement for actual expenses.

15 (4) The commission shall meet at least four times each
16 year. By notice of the regularly published meeting agendas, the
17 commission may hold regular or special meetings in person or by
18 teleconference. The commission shall annually elect a chairperson and
19 vice-chairperson. Any interested party may attend and observe
20 commission meetings except for such portion as may be closed pursuant
21 to the Open Meetings Act. Observers may use a camera or recording
22 device during the course of a meeting if the use of such device does
23 not materially hinder the proceedings. The chairperson may order that
24 the use of such device be discontinued if it causes interference and
25 may exclude any person who fails to comply with such order. A summary

1 of all proceedings and related materials of any open meeting of the
2 commission shall be provided to the Director of Economic Development
3 and shall be available for viewing at the department's offices.

4 (5) The commission shall:

5 (a) Advise and assist the department in activities
6 designed to attract and retain the young adult population;

7 (b) Develop and make available best practices guidelines
8 for employers to attract and retain young adult employees; and

9 (c) In the years in which a report is not required
10 pursuant to subsection (7) of this section, submit a written status
11 report to the department, including an analysis of progress made
12 during the previous calendar year.

13 (6) Information about the commission shall be available
14 on the department's web site or may be requested in writing from the
15 department's offices.

16 (7) The commission shall submit a written report to the
17 Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature that includes findings and
18 recommendations regarding the status of efforts to attract and retain
19 the young adult population in this state, career opportunities and
20 educational needs of young adults, and the movement of the young
21 adult population between rural areas and urban areas and between
22 Nebraska and other states. The commission shall submit the report on
23 or before January 15, 2012, January 1, 2013, and January 1, 2015. The
24 commission shall vote on material to be included in the written
25 report. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members shall

1 be required for approval of the final report.

2 (8) This section shall terminate on January 1, 2015.

3 Sec. 2. Section 81-1178, Reissue Revised Statutes of
4 Nebraska, is amended to read:

5 81-1178 ~~Any~~ Except as expressly provided in section 1 of
6 this act, any member of any state commission, council, committee, or
7 board which has been created by statute shall be entitled to be
8 reimbursed for expenses in the same manner as provided in sections
9 81-1174 to 81-1177 for state employees whether or not specific
10 reference is made to such sections.

11 Sec. 3. Original section 81-1178, Reissue Revised
12 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.