

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 752

Introduced by Crawford, 45; Cook, 13; Kolowski, 31; Krist, 10; Morfeld,
46.

Read first time January 06, 2016

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to create and provide membership
- 2 and duties for the Adult Career Pathways Task Force; and to provide
- 3 a termination date.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Adult Career Pathways Task Force is created. The
2 purpose of the task force is to develop recommendations for connecting
3 adult basic education programs to career pathways in high-demand
4 occupations and sectors and connecting to work in the Department of Labor
5 and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the State Department of
6 Education, including work conducted as a part of the federal Workforce
7 Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., as such act
8 existed on January 1, 2016.

9 Sec. 2. (1) The executive committee of the Adult Career Pathways
10 Task Force shall consist of the following voting members:

11 (a) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the Legislature;

12 (b) The chairperson of the Business and Labor Committee of the
13 Legislature;

14 (c) A member of the Legislature who is also a commissioner on the
15 Midwest Higher Education Compact; and

16 (d) Three additional members of the Legislature, appointed by the
17 Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

18 The voting members of the executive committee shall choose a
19 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the voting members.

20 (2) The Commissioner of Labor, the Commissioner of Education, the
21 Director of Economic Development, the Director of Correctional Services,
22 and the executive director of the Coordinating Commission for
23 Postsecondary Education, or their designees, shall be nonvoting, ex
24 officio members of the executive committee of the task force.

25 (3) The remaining members of the task force shall be nonvoting
26 members appointed by the executive committee of the task force through an
27 application and selection process and shall include representatives of

28 (a) advocacy groups with research or policy expertise in adult basic
29 education programs and career pathways, (b) educational institutions, (c)
30 the philanthropic community, (d) local chambers of commerce, (e) service
31 providers who offer adult basic education programs, and (f) the business

1 community in high-demand occupations or sectors that the task force has
2 identified for potential career pathways. Members of the task force
3 appointed pursuant to this subsection shall be reimbursed for their
4 actual and necessary expenses as members of such task force as provided
5 in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

6 Sec. 3. The Adult Career Pathways Task Force shall:

7 (1) Review and analyze student transition from adult basic
8 education, English language learner, and general educational development
9 programs to career pathways, including: Alignment of programming; rates
10 of student progression to postsecondary education; the coordination and
11 communication between adult basic education programs and postsecondary
12 educational institutions; the coordination and communication between
13 adult basic education programs and programs operated by the Department of
14 Labor or the Department of Economic Development; supportive services for
15 students; barriers to student advancement; and the use of integrated
16 instruction, bridge programs, and career pathways;

17 (2) Review and analyze adult basic education programs currently
18 administered by the State Department of Education, community colleges in
19 Nebraska, and other adult basic education program providers identified by
20 the task force, with focus provided on: The missions and goals of the
21 various adult basic education programs; the accessibility of adult basic
22 education programs; the types of credentials offered; the degree of state
23 and federal funding invested in programming and instruction; the age and
24 educational functioning of students at time of entry into the adult basic
25 education program and the rates of gain upon completion; barriers to
26 student advancement or completion of adult basic education; the rate of
27 students that continue to high school equivalency or postsecondary
28 education upon completion; innovative models or curriculum for combining
29 adult basic education and credit courses; and the degree to which the
30 adult basic education program partners with job training providers,
31 postsecondary education programs, or employers;

1 (3) Review and analyze high school equivalency in Nebraska,
2 including: The rate of students that continue to postsecondary education
3 upon completing the general educational development program; and barriers
4 to student advancement or completion of the general educational
5 development program;

6 (4) Develop common performance definitions and measures that adult
7 basic education programs, general educational development programs, and
8 postsecondary educational institutions will use to track student
9 progress, including, but not limited to, (a) successful completion of a
10 general educational development program, a diploma of high school
11 equivalency, or a high school diploma, (b) employment placement, (c)
12 entrance into postsecondary education or training, (d) other credential
13 completion, and (e) retention in postsecondary education or employment
14 six months post-enrollment or placement; and

15 (5) Analyze existing professional development opportunities for
16 adult educators and develop a strategy for addressing any identified gaps
17 related to connecting adult education learners to career pathways.

18 Sec. 4. In order to accomplish its duties, the Adult Career
19 Pathways Task Force may:

20 (1) Request and receive from any state or local governmental entity
21 or institution information relating to adult basic education, including,
22 but not limited to, reports, data, projections, and statistics; and

23 (2) Appoint special committees to advise and assist the task force.
24 Members of any such special committee shall be appointed by the
25 chairperson of the task force and may be members of the task force or
26 individuals from the private or public sector. A special committee shall
27 report to the task force on the progress of the special committee.
28 Members of a special committee appointed under this section may not
29 receive reimbursement or pay for work done in relation to the special
30 committee.

31 Sec. 5. (1) On or before December 15, 2017, the Adult Career

1 Pathways Task Force shall submit a preliminary report, and on or before
2 December 15, 2018, the task force shall submit a final report (a) to the
3 Governor and (b) electronically to the Executive Board of the Legislative
4 Council.

5 (2) The preliminary report and final report shall:

6 (a) Include the recommendations required pursuant to section 1 of
7 this act;

8 (b) Describe how the task force fulfilled its statutory purposes and
9 duties during the time period covered by the report; and

10 (c) Contain recommendations on how the state can:

11 (i) Better align adult basic education, high school equivalency, and
12 postsecondary education with career pathways;

13 (ii) Better align adult basic education with programs within the
14 Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development, and the
15 Department of Correctional Services;

16 (iii) Improve professional development opportunities for adult basic
17 educators relative to connecting adult basic education learners to career
18 pathways;

19 (iv) Increase the number of skilled employees in Nebraska in order
20 to meet the employment needs of high-demand occupations or sectors; and

21 (v) Increase the number of students completing adult basic education
22 and general educational development programs and transitioning to
23 postsecondary education.

24 Sec. 6. The Adult Career Pathways Task Force terminates on December
25 31, 2018.