

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1040

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Cavanaugh, 6; Hunt, 8.

Read first time January 16, 2020

Committee: Agriculture

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to amend section 2-3815,
2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; to provide for a state
3 food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program; to provide duties
4 for the Department of Agriculture; to state intent regarding
5 appropriations; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
6 section.

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

1 Section 1. Section 2-3815, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2018, is amended to read:

3 2-3815 (1) For purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires, private sector includes, but is not limited to,
5 representatives of food industry associations, lenders, or venture
6 capital groups.

7 (2) ~~(1)~~ The Department of Agriculture shall establish an agriculture
8 promotion and development program. The department shall employ a program
9 director and one specialist in research techniques and market
10 development. Both individuals shall report directly to the Director of
11 Agriculture.

12 (3) ~~(2)~~ The program shall concentrate on the identification and
13 development of opportunities to enhance profitability in agriculture and
14 to stimulate agriculture-related economic development. Program activities
15 may include, but not be limited to, (a) promotion and market development,
16 (b) value-added processing of alternative and traditional commodities,
17 (c) agricultural diversification, including poultry development and
18 aquaculture, (d) agricultural cooperatives, and (e) alternative crops.

19 (4) ~~(3)~~ The Department of Agriculture shall serve as the
20 facilitator, coordinator, and catalyst for developments through and with
21 the Nebraska Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of
22 the University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the Department of
23 Economic Development, other state agencies, the United States Department
24 of Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector. It is the intent
25 of the Legislature that the department foster close working relationships
26 between production agriculture and existing programs for the purposes of
27 agricultural development and promotion. The department may enter into
28 such contracts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this
29 section.

30 (5) The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a
31 state food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program. Such program may

1 award state grants to grantees under the federal food insecurity
2 nutrition incentive grant program established under the federal Food,
3 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, as such act existed on January 1,
4 2020, to offset startup and operational costs associated with projects
5 awarded under the federal grant program. The department shall adopt and
6 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this subsection.

7 (6) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one hundred
8 fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Department of
9 Agriculture to carry out subsection (5) of this section.

10 ~~(4) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise~~
11 ~~requires, private sector includes, but is not limited to, representatives~~
12 ~~of food industry associations, lenders, or venture capital groups.~~

13 Sec. 2. Original section 2-3815, Revised Statutes Cumulative
14 Supplement, 2018, is repealed.