

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 813

Introduced by Bolz, 29; McDonnell, 5.

Read first time January 08, 2020

Committee: Business and Labor

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to state intent relating to
- 2 appropriations for apprenticeships; and to provide powers and duties
- 3 for the Department of Labor.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate
2 four million dollars from the General Fund to the Department of Labor for
3 fiscal year 2020-21 for purposes described in this section.

4 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce the shortage of
5 highly skilled workers, encourage employers to hire and train apprentices
6 in highly skilled trades and occupations, encourage nontraditional
7 workers to engage in highly skilled trades and occupations, and authorize
8 grants and stipends for certain apprenticeship training expenses.

9 (3) The department may use the funds appropriated pursuant to this
10 section to:

11 (a) Expand existing initiatives to provide technical assistance to
12 employers establishing or expanding registered apprenticeship and
13 preapprenticeship programs, including assisting prospective employers
14 through each step of the registered apprenticeship process, coordinating
15 resources and assisting employers in the drafting of apprenticeship
16 standards, helping employers recruit apprentices, including women and
17 English-as-a-second-language learners, and facilitating collaboration
18 with institutions of higher education;

19 (b) Develop, administer, and provide grants for employers partnering
20 with the department in establishing registered apprenticeship and
21 preapprenticeship programs. Grants may be provided to employers for
22 equipment, curriculum, stipends, staff development, or startup costs
23 needed to participate in existing state apprenticeship initiatives; and

24 (c) Provide grants to employers which partner with an institution of
25 higher education for the purpose of providing tuition assistance,
26 stipends, or both to registered apprentices for tools, books, or supplies
27 needed to complete the apprenticeship.

28 (4) The department shall develop criteria for and administer the
29 grants. The department shall annually provide an electronic report to the
30 Legislature which includes the grants awarded, grant amounts, number of
31 apprentices participating in each program, trades and occupations in

- 1 which apprentices are working, average wages for apprentices, and
- 2 geographic location of grant recipients.