

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1113

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 19, 2022

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act;
- 2 to amend section 43-4501, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to
- 3 provide for a pilot program; to state intent to appropriate federal
- 4 funds; and to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 43-4501, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 43-4501 Sections 43-4501 to 43-4514 and section 2 of this act shall
4 be known and may be cited as the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act.

5 Sec. 2. (1) For purposes of this section, targeted transfer means a
6 monthly unconditional gift in the form of cash payments of equal amounts
7 to eligible individuals.

8 (2) Beginning January 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2026, the
9 department shall administer the Nebraska targeted transfer for
10 transition-age youth pilot project. The goals of such pilot project are
11 to: (a) Improve employment and financial stability and reduce the cliff
12 effect for individuals who have aged out of the bridge to independence
13 program; and (b) provide assistance to such individuals to address the
14 negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on
15 transition-age youth.

16 (3) Under the pilot project, an individual who ages out of the
17 bridge to independence program at twenty-one years of age before December
18 31, 2024, shall be eligible for the pilot project and shall receive a
19 targeted transfer of one thousand dollars per month, until December 31,
20 2026. Such eligibility shall apply without regard to the age the
21 individual entered the program. The pilot project shall be voluntary for
22 eligible individuals. Independence coordinators shall provide information
23 to all eligible young adults prior to exiting the bridge to independence
24 program, including the potential impacts of the participation in the
25 pilot program on receipt of public benefits and postsecondary education
26 assistance.

27 (4)(a) To the greatest extent authorized under federal and state
28 law, the targeted transfer provided by this pilot project shall be
29 considered an unconditional gift and shall not be taxable.

30 (b) To the greatest extent authorized under federal and state law,
31 the targeted transfer provided by this pilot project shall not be

1 considered income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility to
2 receive public benefits and financial aid or the amount of those
3 benefits, including, but not limited to, the following programs:

4 (i) Aid to dependent children;

5 (ii) Supplemental nutrition assistance;

6 (iii) Any form of federal, state, and local housing assistance,
7 including, but not limited to, housing choice vouchers, except that such
8 targeted transfer may be treated as a deduction for research-related cash
9 payment;

10 (iv) Nebraska earned income tax credit;

11 (v) Medical assistance;

12 (vi) Benefits under the Employment Security Law;

13 (vii) Child care subsidy;

14 (viii) General assistance established under sections 68-104 and
15 68-131; and

16 (ix) State and federal financial aid and postsecondary support,
17 including, but not limited to, Federal Pell Grants, John H. Chafee Foster
18 Care for Successful Transition to Adulthood Grants, grants under the
19 Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act, and other need-based aid.

20 (5) The department shall work with at least one independent,
21 research-based institution to complete an independent evaluation of the
22 pilot project. The evaluation shall assess the effectiveness of the pilot
23 project in achieving the goals described in subsection (2) of this
24 section, including the impact on housing and employment stability,
25 poverty reduction, financial stability, and educational attainment and
26 the overall fiscal impact. On or before December 31, 2023, and on or
27 before each December 31 thereafter through 2026, the department shall
28 provide an evaluation report to the Health and Human Services Committee
29 of the Legislature and the Nebraska Children's Commission. The report to
30 the Legislature shall be provided electronically.

31 (6) For purposes of administering the pilot program, the department

1 may accept in-kind contributions, including, but not limited to,
2 financial and other mentorship services for recipients.

3 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate xxx dollars
4 from Federal Funds for fiscal years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and
5 2025-26 to the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out the
6 purposes of this section. The Federal Funds to be appropriated are from
7 the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus
8 State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan
9 Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

10 Sec. 3. Original section 43-4501, Reissue Revised Statutes of
11 Nebraska, is repealed.