

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1160

Approved by the Governor August 10, 2020

Introduced by Hansen, M., 26; Bolz, 29; Vargas, 7.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to labor; to adopt the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act; and to declare an emergency.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act.

Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

(1) In order to promote strong economic development policies, good jobs, growing businesses, and thriving communities, it is the intent of the Legislature that the state support the continued planning and development of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System;

(2) As recommended in the 2019 Nebraska Economic Development Task Force Report, it is the long-term goal of the state to target resources and focus data analysis on assessing workforce development and employment success;

(3) The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System is envisioned as a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system serving the needs of the people of Nebraska;

(4) The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System collaboration has its roots in Legislative Bill 1071 enacted by the One Hundred First Legislature, Second Session, which directed the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the State Board of Education, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and the Community College Board of Governors for each community college area to adopt a policy to share student data. In 2019, such partners completed the legal formation of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System as a joint public entity under the Interlocal Cooperation Act in order to cooperate for mutual advantage with regard to data initiatives; and

(5) The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System shall be a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system to enable the training of tomorrow's workforce, today.

Sec. 3. The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System allows Nebraska to:

(1) Provide workforce-outcomes data to postsecondary institutions to guide program, educator, and institutional improvement;

(2) Support students and parents in understanding what education, training, and career pathways best prepare students for occupational success;

(3) Provide comprehensive data about student success and workforce outcomes to policymakers to inform decisions and resource allocation;

(4) Track workforce outcomes in order to better align programs with demands in the labor market;

(5) Disaggregate student outcomes by race, ethnicity, gender, and economic status in order to identify and close educational attainment gaps; and

(6) Identify the long-term return on investment from early education programs.

Sec. 4. (1) The Department of Labor shall execute a memorandum of understanding with the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System before December 31, 2020, to ensure the exchange of available Department of Labor data throughout the prekindergarten to postsecondary education to workforce continuum, and may utilize data and agreements under sections 79-776, 85-110, 85-309, and 85-1511.

(2) The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System shall issue a report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before December 1, 2021. Such report shall make recommendations on the planning and development of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System, including, but not limited to, additional data and stakeholder needs and potential future funding.

Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.