

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1267

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Aguilar, 35; Brewer, 43; Cavanaugh, J., 9;
Cavanaugh, M., 6; Hansen, M., 26; Hilkemann, 4; McKinney,
11; Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for
- 2 health equity liaisons; and to declare an emergency.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) One of the primary objectives of the federal American Rescue
3 Plan Act of 2021 is to "address systemic public health and economic
4 challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic";

5 (2) According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there
6 are moderate to significant disparities between white residents and those
7 identifying as African American, American Indian, and Hispanic in terms
8 of perceived health status, health coverage, and ability to see a
9 physician, among other reasons;

10 (3) Research has shown Nebraska has a wide divide in the race and
11 ethnic demographics of the health care workforce and the projected
12 demographic composition of the Nebraska population; and

13 (4) In furtherance of the goals of the federal American Rescue Plan
14 Act of 2021, it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate Federal
15 Funds to address the disparities as provided in sections 2 to 6 of this
16 act.

17 Sec. 2. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal
18 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on Indian Affairs to carry out
19 subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this
20 section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the
21 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal
22 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.
23 9901.

24 (2)(a) The Commission on Indian Affairs shall employ or contract
25 with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients,
26 hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other
27 stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the
28 population served by the commission.

29 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of
30 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report
31 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,

1 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
2 served by the commission.

3 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
4 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
5 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

6 Sec. 3. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal
7 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
8 to carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds
9 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of
10 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
11 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,
12 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

13 (2)(a) The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired shall
14 employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison
15 between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services,
16 and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities
17 for the population served by the commission.

18 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of
19 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report
20 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,
21 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
22 served by the commission.

23 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
24 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
25 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

26 Sec. 4. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal
27 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on African American Affairs to
28 carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated
29 in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska
30 from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the
31 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M,

1 Sec. 9901.

2 (2)(a) The Commission on African American Affairs shall employ or
3 contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between
4 patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and
5 other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for
6 the population served by the commission.

7 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of
8 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report
9 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,
10 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
11 served by the commission.

12 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
13 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
14 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

15 Sec. 5. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal
16 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to
17 carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated
18 in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska
19 from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the
20 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M,
21 Sec. 9901.

22 (2)(a) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall employ
23 or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between
24 patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and
25 other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for
26 the population served by the commission.

27 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of
28 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report
29 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,
30 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
31 served by the commission.

1 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
2 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
3 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

4 Sec. 6. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 from Federal
5 Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on Latino-Americans to carry out
6 subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this
7 section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the
8 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal
9 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.
10 9901.

11 (2)(a) The Commission on Latino-Americans shall employ or contract
12 with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients,
13 hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other
14 stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the
15 population served by the commission.

16 (b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of
17 Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report
18 electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,
19 outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
20 served by the commission.

21 (c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
22 Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
23 federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

24 Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
25 passed and approved according to law.