

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 505**

Introduced by Brewer, 43.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to refugees; to adopt the Refugee Resettlement
- 2 Notification Act; and to declare an emergency.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the Refugee Resettlement Notification Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the Refugee Resettlement Notification Act:

4           (1) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

5           (2) Refugee means any person who has been (a) approved refugee  
6 status pursuant to section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8  
7 U.S.C. 1157, or (b) granted asylum pursuant to section 208 of such act, 8  
8 U.S.C. 1158; and

9           (3) Refugee resettlement agency means any public or private agency  
10 which receives refugees for resettlement in the State of Nebraska.

11           Sec. 3. (1) The Legislature finds that current geopolitical events  
12 such as civil war and persecution have caused a surge in the global  
13 movement of immigrants and refugees seeking refuge outside of their  
14 native countries and that the federal government is currently assisting  
15 eligible refugees with resources and resettlement within the United  
16 States by partnering with public and private refugee resettlement  
17 agencies in the states, including the State of Nebraska.

18           (2) The Legislature further finds that certain regimes and terrorist  
19 organizations engaging in civil war and persecution causing this surge of  
20 people to seek refuge have declared their intent to exploit the refugee  
21 resettlement and assistance programs of nations like the United States by  
22 infiltrating the ranks of the refugee population for the purpose of  
23 gaining entry into such nations to establish terror cells and carry out  
24 terrorist attacks against innocent citizens.

25           (3) The Legislature recognizes that these regimes and terrorist  
26 organizations have recently been successful in Europe and the United  
27 States with their intent to exploit refugee programs by infiltrating  
28 refugee populations or inspiring some people within such populations to  
29 act on their terroristic goals.

30           (4) The Legislature also recognizes that the federal government has  
31 not adequately supplied or appropriately informed the states with

1 essential information regarding the refugees being placed and resettled  
2 into the states and the federal government's future intentions or  
3 estimates for refugee resettlement and placement.

4 (5) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to require timely  
5 and adequate reporting of information from refugee resettlement agencies  
6 in Nebraska so that the citizens of Nebraska and their representatives in  
7 the United States Congress, the Legislature, and the Governor's  
8 administration can better make informed decisions regarding the trends,  
9 feasibility, and the potential future security risks of refugee  
10 resettlement programs.

11 Sec. 4. (1) On or before July 30, 2017, and December 31, 2017, and  
12 each July and December thereafter, each refugee resettlement agency in  
13 Nebraska shall submit a semi-annual report to the department which  
14 contains: (a) A listing of how many refugees the agency has received for  
15 resettlement for the reporting period, broken down by: (i) Month, (ii)  
16 nation of origin or citizenship, (iii) age, (iv) sex, (v) family status,  
17 (vi) nation of entry into the United States, and (vii) reason for refugee  
18 or asylum status or designation of applicable federal refugee  
19 resettlement program;

20 (b) Any state benefits obtained by such refugees with the assistance  
21 of the agency, totaled by each state benefit program;

22 (c) The amount of federal assistance the agency has received from  
23 the federal government by month and for the reporting period and any  
24 amounts of federal assistance that were received by refugees with the  
25 agency's assistance; and

26 (d) The agency's projected refugee resettlement numbers by nation of  
27 origin for the next year.

28 (2) The department shall post the reports received under this  
29 section on a web site administered by the department.

30 Sec. 5. On or before January 31, 2018, and each January 31  
31 thereafter, the department shall:

1       (1) Collect and tabulate the number of refugees that have obtained  
2 benefits for each state benefit program and the amount of such benefits;

3       (2) Compile the data from the reports submitted under section 4 of  
4 this act for the preceding calendar year; and

5       (3) Compile the data from subsections (1) and (2) of this section  
6 into a report which the department shall electronically submit to the  
7 Legislature, the Governor, and each member of the state's congressional  
8 delegation.

9       Sec. 6.   The department may adopt and promulgate rules and  
10 regulations to carry out the Refugee Resettlement Notification Act and to  
11 ensure the collection and reporting of consistent and compatible  
12 information from refugee resettlement agencies.

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