

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 851**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Jacobson, 42.

Read first time January 03, 2024

Committee: Business and Labor

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Economic Development; to
- 2 amend section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 3 2022; to change provisions relating to internship grants; to provide
- 4 an operative date; to repeal the original section; and to declare an
- 5 emergency.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2022, is amended to read:

3 81-1210.02 (1) The intent of sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 is to  
4 provide students with valuable internship opportunities in order to  
5 retain such students in the State of Nebraska at institutions of higher  
6 education, convert students to full-time employment in Nebraska, and  
7 attract workers to Nebraska by assisting Nebraska businesses willing to  
8 provide paid internships.

9 (2) A business may apply to the department for a grant to assist in  
10 providing a student an internship if:

11 (a) The business certifies that the internship meets the definition  
12 of internship in section 81-1210.01;

13 (b) The business will pay the student at least the state minimum  
14 hourly wage for the internship;

15 (c) The internship will be completed within the State of Nebraska;

16 (d) The internship will be completed within a period of no more than  
17 twenty-four months; and

18 (e) The internship will be for a duration sufficient to allow the  
19 student to gain significant valuable work experience and knowledge.

20 (3)(a) The department may provide grants for internships to  
21 reimburse the cost of wages paid to businesses with less than one hundred  
22 fifty full-time-equivalent employees.

23 (b) The department may also provide grants for internships to any  
24 business to reimburse the costs for any of the following:

25 (i) Tuition reimbursement for courses at institutions of higher  
26 education;

27 (ii) Internship housing;

28 (iii) Transportation expenses relating to internships; and

29 (iv) Internship administrative or recruitment costs.

30 (c) The maximum grant award per internship is seven thousand five  
31 hundred dollars.

1 (4) A business may apply for no more than two grants for the same  
2 student and shall not be awarded more than one hundred grants total in  
3 any twelve-month period.

4 (5) A business may allow a student to telecommute if the business is  
5 located in Nebraska and ~~more than thirty miles from~~ the college,  
6 university, or other institution of higher education in which the student  
7 is enrolled ~~and if the college, university, or other institution of~~  
8 ~~higher education~~ is in Nebraska.

9 (6) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure that the  
10 distribution of grants under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 provides  
11 equitable access to the grants by all geographic areas of the state.

12 (7) The department shall, to the extent possible, assure that the  
13 grants awarded pursuant to sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 are for  
14 internships which provide valuable learning opportunities for students  
15 who will be seeking employment in a professional or technical field.

16 (8) The department shall not allocate more than one million five  
17 hundred thousand dollars in any one fiscal year from the Job Training  
18 Cash Fund or its subaccounts for purposes of this section. The department  
19 may receive funds from public, private, or other sources for purposes of  
20 this section.

21 (9) The department shall develop a qualified action plan by January  
22 1 of each even-numbered year. The plan shall, at a minimum, set forth the  
23 department's priorities and selection criteria for awarding grants for  
24 internships. In order to encourage students from across Nebraska to  
25 pursue internships, the plan shall also include strategies for  
26 affirmatively marketing internships to Nebraska students in high schools,  
27 colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education in  
28 Nebraska. Such strategies shall place an emphasis on marketing to  
29 underserved student populations as defined by the department in the plan.  
30 The department shall submit the plan to the Governor for approval.

31 (10) The department shall execute a memorandum of understanding with

1 the Department of Labor before December 31, 2022, to ensure the exchange  
2 of available Department of Labor data throughout the continuum from  
3 prekindergarten to postsecondary education to the workforce. The  
4 department may utilize data and agreements under sections 79-776, 85-110,  
5 85-309, and 85-1511.

6 (11) The department shall submit an annual report to the Governor  
7 and the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year which includes, but  
8 is not limited to, a description of the demand for internship grants and  
9 programs under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 from all geographic  
10 regions in Nebraska, a listing of the recipients and amounts of  
11 internship grants awarded in the previous fiscal year, the impact of the  
12 internship grants, and an evaluation of the internship grants and  
13 programs under sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03 based on the documented  
14 goals of the recipients. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be  
15 submitted electronically. The department may require recipients to  
16 provide periodic performance reports to enable the department to fulfill  
17 the requirements of this subsection. The report shall contain no  
18 information that is protected by state or federal confidentiality laws.

19 (12) The department may enter into a contract with a Nebraska-based  
20 nonprofit entity for the purposes of carrying out any or all of the  
21 provisions of sections 81-1210.01 to 81-1210.03.

22 Sec. 2. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2024.

23 Sec. 3. Original section 81-1210.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
24 Supplement, 2022, is repealed.

25 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
26 passed and approved according to law.