

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1285

Introduced by Walz, 15; Dungan, 26.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee: Executive Board

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to labor; to create the Task Force on

2 Supported Employment.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Task Force on Supported Employment is created. The
2 task force shall study the barriers to supporting individuals with
3 intellectual and developmental disabilities in attaining and maintaining
4 employment. The task force shall provide recommendations to the
5 Legislature, the Governor, and state agencies.

6 Sec. 2. (1) The Task Force on Supported Employment shall consist of
7 the following voting members who shall be appointed no later than
8 September 1, 2024:

9 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
10 the Legislature or designee;

11 (b) A member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature
12 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

13 (c) A member of the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature
14 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

15 (d) A representative of the Governor's office appointed by the
16 Governor;

17 (e) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and
18 Human Services or designee;

19 (f) The executive director of the Nebraska Planning Council on
20 Developmental Disabilities or designee;

21 (g) Two service providers with eight or more years of experience and
22 a high success rate in delivering supported employment to individuals
23 with a broad range of disabilities appointed by the Governor;

24 (h) A representative of a chamber of commerce appointed by the
25 Governor;

26 (i) Two self-advocates with at least five years of experience in
27 employment appointed by the Governor;

28 (j) A certified community work incentives coordinator or community
29 partner work incentives counselor appointed by the Governor; and

30 (k) A special education transition coordinator appointed by the
31 Commissioner of Education.

1 (2) The task force shall consist of the following nonvoting members:

2 (a) A representative of a Nebraska organization that advocates for
3 the rights of individuals with disabilities appointed by the Governor;

4 (b) A representative from the University Center for Excellence in
5 Developmental Disability Education, Research and Service of the Munroe-
6 Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center appointed by
7 the Governor;

8 (c) An employee of the State Department of Education Vocational
9 Rehabilitation Department appointed by the Commissioner of Education;

10 (d) An employee of the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the
11 Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the Governor;

12 (e) An employee of the Division of Behavioral Health of the
13 Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the Governor;

14 (f) An employee of the Department of Labor appointed by the
15 Governor; and

16 (g) A supported employment expert who has assisted in other states
17 appointed by the Governor.

18 Sec. 3. The Task Force on Supported Employment shall:

19 (1) Review the 2023 report "Necessity or Luxury?" prepared for the
20 Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Nebraska
21 2023 Supported Employment Action Plan and provide tangible solutions to
22 fulfill the recommendations;

23 (2) Review the recommendations resulting from the study authorized
24 in Laws 2022, LB376; and

25 (3) Create a report with an action plan for the executive branch of
26 state government, relevant state agencies, the Legislature, and
27 businesses which shall include, but not be limited to, the:

28 (a) Barriers to entry in the workforce for individuals with
29 intellectual and developmental disabilities;

30 (b) Number of individuals that would be able to join the workforce
31 with changed requirements; and

1 (c) Ways in which additional working hours impact benefits received
2 by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

3 Sec. 4. The Task Force on Supported Employment shall submit a
4 report electronically to the Legislature and Governor no later than
5 December 1, 2025.