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**DEPARTMENT  
OF LABOR**

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SECTOR  
PARTNERSHIP  
PROGRAM  
ACT

*Neb. Rev. Stat. §§48-3401 to 48-3407*



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PETE RICKETTS, GOVERNOR  
JOHN H. ALBIN, COMMISSIONER

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[Current Through 2016 Legislature, Regular Session]

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## TEXT OF THE LAW

### **48-3401. Act, how cited.**

Sections 48-3401 to 48-3407 shall be known and may be cited as the Sector Partnership Program Act.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 6.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016

### **48-3402. Legislative findings, declarations, and intent.**

(1) The Legislature finds and declares that sector partnerships are a proven strategy for engaging employers in key industries, helping workers train for and access good jobs, and coordinating education, training, and workforce development activities in response to industry needs.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature and the purpose of the Sector Partnership Program Act to support local sector partnerships that will close skill gaps in high-demand sectors of business and industry. By conducting labor availability and skills gap studies, the Sector Partnership Program will connect education and training providers with employers and will ensure that the state's workforce and economic development activities align with the needs of employers in the state's key industries.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 7.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016

### **48-3403. Terms, defined.**

For purposes of the Sector Partnership Program Act:

(1) Department means the Department of Labor;

(2) Local area means a workforce development area authorized by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and established in Nebraska;

(3) Local sector partnership or partnership means a workforce collaborative that organizes key stakeholders in a particular sector of business or industry in a local area into a working group that focuses on the shared goals and human resources needs of such sector;

(4) Local workforce development board means a local workforce development board authorized by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and established in Nebraska; and

(5) Nebraska Workforce Development Board means the state workforce development board authorized by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and established in Nebraska.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 8.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016

### **48-3404. Sector Partnership Program; created; Department of Labor; duties; Department of Economic Development; contracts authorized; completed studies; public information.**

(1) The Sector Partnership Program is created. The program shall be administered by the Department of Labor in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development. In establishing and administering the program, the Department of Labor shall consult with the Nebraska Workforce Development Board, the Department of Economic

Development, and the State Department of Education.

(2) The Department of Labor, in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development, shall:

(a) Establish a study process to conduct labor availability and skills gap studies;

(b) Determine the laborshed areas of the state; and

(c) Complete labor availability and skills gap studies for all laborshed areas of the state on a rotating basis as determined by the Department of Labor.

(3) The Department of Labor and the Department of Economic Development may contract with other entities to conduct additional labor availability, skills gap, and sector partnership studies.

(4) The Department of Labor, in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development, shall provide technical assistance to local sector partnerships and persons interested in forming partnerships. Technical assistance may include providing: (a) Direction and counseling on forming and sustaining partnerships; (b) professional development and capacity building through academies, toolkits, and peer sharing networks; (c) customized labor market and economic analysis; and (d) information on career pathways, worker training resources, skill standards, and industry-based certifications.

(5) Except to the extent otherwise provided in state or federal law, all completed labor availability and skills gap studies shall be public information.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 9.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016

**48-3405. Sector Partnership Program Fund; created; use; investment.**

(1) The Sector Partnership Program Fund is created. The fund shall be administered by the Department of Labor. The fund shall be used to pursue sector partnership activities, including, but not limited to, labor availability and skills gap studies by the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic Development pursuant to the Sector Partnership Program Act. The fund may also be used for administrative costs of the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic Development associated with sector partnership activities.

(2) The fund shall consist of such money as is: (a) Transferred to the fund from the Job Training Cash Fund and the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund; (b) otherwise appropriated to the fund by the Legislature; (c) donated as gifts, bequests, or other contributions to the fund from public or private entities; and (d) made available by any department or agency of the United States if so directed by such department or agency. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 10.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016

**Cross References:**

- **Nebraska Capital Expansion Act**, see section 72-1269.
- **Nebraska State Funds Investment Act**, see section 72-1260.

**48-3406. Report.**

On or before July 31 of each year, the department shall provide an annual report to the Governor and the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. The report shall detail the process and results of the labor availability and skills gap studies.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 11.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016

**48-3407. Rules and regulations.**

The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Sector Partnership Program Act.

**Source:** Laws 2016, LB1110, § 12.

**Effective Date:** April 14, 2016