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Immigration in Nebraska

Immigration is the process by which a person or a group of individuals move to a foreign country to residein the regionpermanently or temporarily. Immigration can either be legal or illegal. For an immigration process to be legal in the U.S, the persons involved have to follow the policies set by the states before being approved and rendered as American citizens. Nebraska State has a long history concerning immigration because many immigrants from different parts of the world settled here, which also included the Native Americans who also settled in Nebraska from various regions in the United States. Nebraska State represents a history of many Europeans who moved to the United States in search of better lives, with the application of hard work and sacrifice to achieve their goals and dreams.

The movement into Nebraska, therefore, resulted in the encountering of different people from different regions with different ethnicity, language, and religion, making it difficult to communicate and work together. This in turn led to tension and sometimes violence in the state of Nebraska. In the early 20th century, there was a massive influx in the number of immigrants into the state as more than half a million moved into the state at that time, compared to immigration numbers in the 19th century. Nebraska roots grew significantly at this time with individuals who prefer more independence transferred to the north of Nebraska. The growth was primarily experienced in the economy of the state, as well as a communal growth (these included both political amendments and social activities). A unicameral system of governance was introduced into the state after the vote passed a bill for its introduction in 1934 and the first session began in 1937 and is still used to date.

Luebke &Frederick , (12), state that Nebraska State immigration law was first enacted in 1882. It was then revised in 1892 and later in 1902. This law was created due to the distinct anti-Chinese sentiments on the west coast, as many people came here to work from China. The Chinese were not interested in assimilation, and there were also racial overtones. At this time, Japanese, south Asians and Filipinos immigrants’ started getting into the state, which led to the enactment of the first all-purpose federal immigration legislation in 1920. Over the years, Nebraska became home to a lot of immigrants moving to the United States in search of better working and living conditions. Most of the immigrants are unskilled and therefore work as labourers and mostly work on the end product in meat packing business instead of the beginning products since agricultural economic activities require skilled labour.

**Examples of such tasks include:**

* Offering transportation services.
* Meat packaging in the processing companies.
* Cattle rearing.
* Taking care of the firms.

In the city areas, evidence of high influx immigration in the Nebraska state can be seen by looking at school data indicating the change in the composition of the state. Five years ago, data collected from Lincoln public schools’ English language learner’s program student body was mainly made of the Iraqand students from Kosovo and Bosnia. In Lexington, most of the community is Hispanic;however, recent research shows the presence of both Ethiopian and Liberian workers. Less attention is given to matching immigrants’ culture making it harder to acculturate new immigrants.

In Nebraska State, there are immigration laws set by the state as an effort to regulate immigration and curb illegal immigration. The laws defined by the states offer the guidelines established to be followed by law enforcement, employers, an extensive E-verify requirements and education institutions when assessing immigration status of an individual. Under law enforcement and immigration in Nebraska there exist a federal program called secure communities whereby all arrested persons are fingerprinted and then run through the federal database to check the individuals’ criminal record and immigration status, which defines an individual’s restriction on public benefit based on their immigration status. During employment checks, the laws regarding immigrations refer to federal employment eligibility verification rules and the requirement for form 1-9.

The state of Nebraska E-verify requirements law states that both the local and state government and contractors are obligated to use E-verify. In regards to giving of driver’s licenses or identification requirements, the law states that applicants of Nebraska driver’s license or state identification cards must declare their legal residence or American citizenship and must provide proof of that. Regarding public benefit restrictions, under the federal law, illegal immigrants in Nebraska State are restricted from receiving public benefits since offering public benefits to illegal immigrants’ strains the economy. They are however allowed to receive health care, emergency services and any other service that is deemed necessary to protect life and safety. Under housing ordinances and immigration, the state laws make it illegal to hire or rent housing services to undocumented or illegal immigrants. Other immigration rules in Nebraska State dictate that former employees deported due to their immigration status cannot claim refunds, state tax credits or exemptions (Communications, 123).

Illegal immigration in Nebraska accounts for about 2.8% of states population according to research conducted in 2012. The study shows that there are about 55,000 unauthorized immigrants in the state. According to the United States Census Bureau reports on 2013, about 8% of Nebraska population constituted of immigrants. For Nebraska’s welfare to be appealing for the residents, the regions’ statutes require the immigration policies and laws to be followed since they allow for better planning and budgeting of available resources in the state. Also, the illegal immigration should be discouraged since it causes a strain in the available economic amenities available for use in any state. Individuals in search of better living and working conditions in the United States should follow the proper guidelines in acquiring citizenship in America. Official and institutions associated with immigration should uphold ethical practices and fairness when dealing with the various immigration cases. They should also honour, respect and follow immigration guidelines as provided by the immigration laws and policies (Allport, 32-64).

As aforementioned,Nebraskahas been experiencing a high immigration rate over time. In most cases, the immigrants tend to look for better living standards and livelihoods. Consequently, most of these individuals tend to be under skilled, and not specialized to undertake technical ventures that may require technical knowledge and skills. As a result, most of this group end up working as labourers in both domestic and commercial fields.

# Citation

Allport, Alan. *Immigration Policy*. Infobase Publishing, 2009.

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