

AMENDMENTS TO LB1024

Introduced by Urban Affairs.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
4 cited as the Economic Recovery Act.

5 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

6 (1) The COVID-19 public health emergency has caused widespread
7 economic, social, and public health-related turmoil that deepened
8 existing disparities;

9 (2) The social and economic challenges caused and exacerbated by the
10 COVID-19 public health emergency include high unemployment, wage
11 decreases, increased homelessness, and food insecurity;

12 (3) The impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and related
13 challenges were disproportionately felt in low-income and minority
14 communities such as North Omaha and South Omaha;

15 (4) The social and economic challenges in North Omaha and South
16 Omaha have persisted for multiple generations, partially fueled by past
17 racial segregation and the historical practice known as redlining;

18 (5) Funding under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
19 presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to respond to the challenges
20 facing North Omaha and South Omaha that have been worsened by the
21 COVID-19 public health emergency; and

22 (6) Federal guidance issued by the United States Department of the
23 Treasury has identified qualified census tracts as areas in which certain
24 activities and investments will be deemed presumptively eligible for the
25 use of funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

26 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Economic Recovery Act, qualified census
27 tract means a qualified census tract as defined in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)

1 (ii)(I), as such section existed on January 1, 2022.

2 Sec. 4. (1) The primary responsibility of the Economic Recovery
3 Division of the Department of Economic Development shall be to utilize
4 federal funding to award grants as provided in this section. The division
5 shall, with the assistance of the Economic Recovery Advisory Committee,
6 develop a coordinated plan and a grant application and scoring process to
7 award grants under the Economic Recovery Act.

8 (2) The coordinated plan developed pursuant to this section shall
9 direct and prioritize the use of grants toward the economic recovery of
10 those communities and neighborhoods within qualified census tracts
11 located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class that
12 were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency
13 and related challenges, with an emphasis on housing needs, job training,
14 and business development within such communities and neighborhoods. Not
15 later than January 1, 2023, the Economic Recovery Division shall submit a
16 copy of such coordinated plan to the Urban Affairs Committee of the
17 Legislature.

18 (3) All grants made by the Economic Recovery Division shall meet the
19 eligible uses under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and any
20 relevant guidance on the use of such funds by the United States
21 Department of the Treasury.

22 Sec. 5. (1) The Economic Recovery Advisory Committee is created. The
23 committee shall assist the Economic Recovery Division of the Department
24 of Economic Development in developing a coordinated plan for the use of
25 grant funds awarded under the Economic Recovery Act.

26 (2) The committee members shall include:

27 (a) The Director of Economic Development or the director's designee;

28 (b) A representative of a chamber of commerce for a city of the
29 metropolitan class, who shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed
30 by the Legislature; and

31 (c) A community member representing communities and neighborhoods

1 within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of
2 the metropolitan class that were disproportionately impacted by the
3 COVID-19 public health emergency, who shall be appointed by the Governor
4 and confirmed by the Legislature.

5 (3) In addition to the members listed in subsection (2) of this
6 section, the committee shall also include two members of the Legislature
7 representing legislative districts containing one or more qualified
8 census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan
9 class. Such members shall be appointed by the chairperson of the
10 Executive Board of the Legislative Council and serve as non-voting, ex
11 officio members of the committee.

12 Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate four
13 hundred fifty million dollars from federal funds for FY2022-23 to the
14 Economic Recovery Division of the Department of Economic Development to
15 carry out the Economic Recovery Act. The federal funds appropriated in
16 this section shall be from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska
17 from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the
18 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M,
19 Sec. 9901.

20 Sec. 7. Section 81-1201.07, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 81-1201.07 The department may have the divisions and program listed
23 in this section to aid in the discharge of its duties but shall not be
24 limited to such divisions and program: (1) An Existing Business
25 Assistance Division; (2) a Business Recruitment Division; (3) a Community
26 and Rural Development Division; (4) an Economic Recovery Division; and
27 (5) ~~(4)~~ a Community Development Block Grant Program. Each division and
28 program, when deemed appropriate by the director, is encouraged to
29 establish advisory committees and programs to insure public participation
30 and input.

31 Sec. 8. Original section 81-1201.07, Reissue Revised Statutes of

1 Nebraska, is repealed.

2 Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when

3 passed and approved according to law.