

AMENDMENTS TO LB598

(Amendments to E&R amendments, ER136)

Introduced by Wayne, 13.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 Sec. 6. Section 81-12,153, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
3 2020, is amended to read:

4 81-12,153 For purposes of the Business Innovation Act:

5 (1) Department means the Department of Economic Development;

6 (2) Economic redevelopment area means an area in the State of
7 Nebraska in which:

8 (a) The average rate of unemployment in the area during the period
9 covered by the most recent federal decennial census or American Community
10 Survey 5-Year Estimate by the United States Bureau of the Census is at
11 least one hundred fifty percent of the average rate of unemployment in
12 the state during the same period; and

13 (b) The average poverty rate in the area is twenty percent or more
14 for the federal census tract in the area;

15 (3) ~~(2)~~ Federal grant program means the federal Small Business
16 Administration's Small Business Innovation Research grant program or
17 Small Business Technology Transfer grant program;

18 (4) ~~(3)~~ Microenterprise means a for-profit business entity with not
19 more than ten full-time equivalent employees;

20 (5) ~~(4)~~ Prototype means an original model on which something is
21 patterned by a resident of Nebraska or a company located in Nebraska; and

22 (6) ~~(5)~~ Value-added agriculture means increasing the net worth of
23 food or nonfood agricultural products by processing, alternative
24 production and handling methods, collective marketing, or other
25 innovative practices.

26 Sec. 7. Section 81-12,158, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2020, is amended to read:

2 81-12,158 (1) The department shall establish a financial assistance
3 program to provide financial assistance to businesses that employ no more
4 than five hundred employees or to individuals for the purposes of
5 creating a prototype of a product stemming from research and development
6 at a business operating in Nebraska or a public or private college or
7 university in Nebraska.

8 (2) Funds shall be matched by nonstate funds equivalent in money
9 equal to:

10 (a) Twenty-five percent of the funds requested if the applicant's
11 principal residence or principal place of business is located in an
12 economic redevelopment area within a city of the metropolitan class; or

13 (b) Fifty fifty percent of the funds requested for any other
14 applicant.

15 (3) Matching funds may be from any nonstate source, including
16 private foundations, federal or local government sources, quasi-
17 governmental entities, or commercial lending institutions, or any other
18 funds whose source does not include funds appropriated by the
19 Legislature.

20 (4) The amount the department may provide shall not exceed one
21 hundred fifty thousand dollars per project.

22 (5) ~~(3)~~ A business or individual applying for financial assistance
23 under this section shall include a business plan that includes a proof-
24 of-concept demonstration.

25 (6) ~~(4)~~ Financial assistance under this section shall be expended
26 within twenty-four months after the date of the awarding decision.

27 (7) ~~(5)~~ The department may award up to five ~~four~~ million dollars per
28 year for financial assistance under this section.

29 Sec. 8. Sections 6, 7, and 9 of this act become operative three
30 calendar months after the adjournment of this legislative session. The
31 other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

- 1 Sec. 9. Original sections 81-12,153 and 81-12,158, Revised Statutes
- 2 Cumulative Supplement, 2020, are repealed.
- 3 2. Renumber the remaining section accordingly.