

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB45

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 21, 2023
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: Dorn
One Liner: Create the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators McKinney, Hunt, Day, Cavanaugh, J., Blood
Nay:	2	Senators Hardin, Lowe
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Myron Dorn
Jan Tietjon
Kyle Svec
Tobias Tempelmeyer
Christy Abraham
Don Wesley
Dexter Schrodt
Jay Ferris

Representing:

Opening Presenter
City of Hebron
City of Geneva
City of Beatrice
League of Municipalities/NEDA
Greater Nebraska Cities
Nebraska Independent Community Bankers
Nebraska Farm Bureau

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Carley Bruning

Representing:

Thayer County Economic Development Alliance

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 45 would create the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Fund for cities of the first class, second class, or village. This grant would provide for a dilapidated commercial property demolition, and would be run by the Department of Environment and Energy. There shall be no limit on the amount that can be awarded to each application within the available funding.

Background & Legislative History:

LB 45 originated from the clerk in Hebron, NE, who wanted to address the city's deteriorating downtown area.

The language of LB 45 is based off of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act, which was expanded by LB 180 (2009) to include grants for the reimbursement of costs for the deconstruction of abandoned buildings, and to encourage the recycling or reuse of the building's materials.

Though the language in LB 45 sets the same parameters as the Act, the former covers "demolition," while the latter covers "deconstruction." Deconstruction means that costs will be related to the recovery and processing of recyclable or reusable material from the abandoned buildings. Demolition, on the other hand, simply means tearing down.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1 of the bill creates the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program. Under this act, the governing body of a first class city, second class city, or village may apply to the Department of Environment and Energy for approval of a dilapidated commercial property demolition grant. The Program would begin in FY 2023-24. There shall be no limits on the amount that can be awarded to each applicant.

Section 2 of the bill lays out the requirements of receiving a Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant.

Section 3 of the bill provides that if the city or village fails to engage in the demolition of the commercial property identified in the grant within 24 months after receiving the grant, the city or village shall return the grant to the Department of Environment and Energy.

Section 4 of the bill creates the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Fund. This fund shall be used by the Department of Environment and Energy for the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program. The State Treasurer shall annually transfer \$10,000,000 from the general fund beginning in FY 2023-24, and ending in FY 2027-28.

Section 5 of the bill adds an emergency clause.

Technical Comments:

As this bill includes an emergency clause, the Legislature must have a two-thirds vote (33) to pass the bill. The Fund would then go into effect as soon as the governor signs the bill, the legislature overrides the governor's veto, or five days pass after the legislature approves a bill and the governor fails to act on it.

Terrell McKinney, Chairperson