

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB531

Hearing Date: Tuesday March 07, 2023
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: McKinney
One Liner: Create and change grant and economic and community development programs, change municipal governance and regulation provisions and state building code provisions, authorize transfer of investment interest on certain funds and Cash Reserve Fund transfers, and authorize development of the Mayhew Cabin historical site and a Chief Standing Bear museum and visitor center

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Blood, Cavanaugh, J., Day, Hunt, McKinney, Hardin
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 1 Senator Lowe

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Terrell McKinney
Willie Barnet
Cesar Garcia
Joel Dougherty
Kenny McMorris
Marcos Barrientos
Gladys Harrison
Hazel Lopez
Aban A
Imani Murray
Glenn Pettis
Leo Louis II
Lina Trablavina Stover
Alejandra Lopez Salas
Alberto Vavas
ChavDale Barnes
Veneza Ramos

Jonathan Chapman
Nyomi Thompson
Jaden Perkins
Angel Starks

Representing:

Opening Presenter
self
Canopy South
One World Community Health Centers
Charles Drew Health Center INC.
Latino Economic Development Council (LEDC)
Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering
LEDC
New Life Family Alliance and Black Men Limited
Ital Vital Living
Multi-pronged Economic Development Project
Malcolm X Foundation
Heartland Workers Center
Heartland Workers Center
Latino Center of the Midlands
Stable Gray
Multi-pronged Economic Development Project/South
Dasha
Empowerment Network
I BE BLACK GIRL
Heartland Worker Center
Sparks CDI



Matt Wallen
Bob Pelshaw
Latron Louis Jr.
Robert Penn
James Overton III

Tut Keat
Nadia Spurlock
Teresa Hunter
Steve Cerveny
Ryan McIntosh
Jennifer Creager

Opponents:

Neutral:

Gayla Chambers

United Way of the Midlands
self
Code Z Outreach (Gang Intervention)
Neter Enterprise LLC (Gang Intervention)
Jim's Ribs Haven LLC, Lantex LLC, Southern Spoon
INC
New Family Housing Alliance
self
Family Housing Advisory Services
OPD
Nebraska Banker Association
Greater Omaha Center

Representing:

Representing:

Together We Achieve Miracles, INC.

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 531 cleans up language in the Economic Recovery Act (LB 1024 (2022)) by removing certain requirements relating to coordinated plans and directing direct investment to the fund after July 1st, 2023. The Economic Recovery Act, enacted with the passage of Legislative Bill 1024 by the Nebraska State Legislature in 2022, provides at least \$335 million in funding to assist North Omaha, South Omaha, and other communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section-by-Section Summary:

-Section 1 of the bill amends 81-12,241 by (1) removing a provision that requires the division develop a coordinated plan, (2) removing references to the coordinated plan, (3) prioritizes grants used within the boundaries of a city in the metropolitan class, (4) removes the requirement that the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division must rely on any studies produced pursuant to section 81-12,242, and (5) creates a new unnamed amount for grants distributed under the grant program.

-Section 2 amends 81-12,243 to direct investment earns made after Jul 1, 2023 to the fund. The section also states that no funds shall be expended until at least 30 days after the effective date of the act.

-Section 3 amends 81-12,244 to harmonize with the previous provisions.

-Section 4 repeals original sections.

-Section 5 enacts an emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 1128 outlines the usage and administration of the North and South Omaha grant program. Applicants to the North and South Omaha Recovery Grant Program must be listed in the coordination plan by the Economic Recovery Special Committee of the legislature to be eligible for grants. Also, this amendment explains how the grant will relieve the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency within a qualified census tract within the boundaries of



a city of the metropolitan class.

AM 64: Voted 7-0 , Adopted to LB531

YES Votes: Hardin, Lowe, Blood, Day, Hunt, Blood, and Cavanaugh

Page-by-Page Summary of Changes Made By AM 1128

-Page 1:

Line 5: strikes "and section 6 of this act"

Lines 22-27: strikes mentions to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

-Page 2:

Lines 1-2: strikes mentions to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Lines 8-10: removes requirement of the Incentives Division of the Department of Economic Development to develop a coordinated plan and grant application and scoring process to award grants

Lines 11-26: removes requirement that grants must be awarded within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class. Also removes requirement that the division must submit a copy of an initial coordinated plan to the Economic Recovery Special Committee of the Legislature.

-Page 3:

Lines 10-15: removes grant distribution boundary requirements within the city of the metropolitan class

Line 22: Changes "sixty million" to "one hundred million"

-Page 6:

Lines 2-3: States that investment earnings on and after July 1, 2023 shall be credited to the fund.

Lines 4-9: Removes coordinated plan requirements

Lines 12-20: Removes reference to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Lines 21-26: Removes coordinated plan requirements

-Page 7:

-Lines 18-20: Removes requirement that the Department of Economic Development shall not use money from the General Fund to implement or administer the grants provided under the Economic Recovery Act.

Lines 21-31: Provides that the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division of the Department of Economic Development shall create and administer the North and South Omaha Recovery Grant Program. This change also provides how an applicant can be eligible for a grant under the Program.

-Page 8:

Lines 1-31: Continues details of how an applicant be eligible for a grant under the Program. Also requires the Department to award specific grants.

-Page 12:

Lines 3-7: Requires the State Treasurer to transfer four hundred fifty million dollars form the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund as soon as administratively possible.

Lines 8-18: Requires the Department of Natural Resources to award a grant of two hundred million dollars to a city of the primary class.

Lines 19-25: Requires the Department of Environment and Energy to award grants totaling not more than fifty million dollars to install reverse osmosis systems in (1) small and rural communities, and (2) private water systems of test levels for nitrates in drinking water pumped for private wells are above ten parts per million.



LB 531 voted to General File- 6-0; 1-not voting

YES Vote: Hardin, McKinney, Blood, Day, Hunt, and Cavanaugh.

Not Voting: Lowe

Terrell McKinney, Chairperson

