

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB840

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 23, 2024
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: McKinney
One Liner: Adopt the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Blood, Cavanaugh, J., Day, Hardin, Hunt, Lowe, McKinney
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Terrell McKinney
Tina Rockenbach
Karen Bell-Dancy
Katie Nungesser
Justin Coleman
Paul Feilmann

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Community Action of Nebraska
YWCA Lincoln
Voices for Children in Nebraska
/obc and Associates/Green Guru LCC
self

Opponents:

Lynn Rex
Blair MacDonald

Representing:

League of NE Municipalities
Greater Nebraska Cities

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 840 would create the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act. This act would require cities with a population of at least 50,000 to, by July 1, 2025, establish, adopt, and electronically submit a 5-year plan poverty elimination action plan to the Urban Affairs Committee. Under this plan, cities shall include their efforts to eliminate poverty. This plan shall be reevaluated every two years, and updated every five years. The Urban Affairs Committee may also request that any city must present its report to the committee at any public hearing regarding the matter.

Cities with a population of at least 20,000 shall also electronically submit a report to the Committee detailing its efforts to eliminate poverty. The following key components of the plan include needs assessment, community engagement, data analysis, education and job training, affordable housing, and health care access.



Section by Section Summary:

Section 1 names the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act.

Section 2 states the purpose of the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act will address the specific poverty challenges in high poverty areas and promote sustainability.

Section 3 defines the following: (1) City, (2) Economic Redevelopment Area, meaning an area in which the average unemployment rate is covered by 150% in a 5 year period and the average poverty rate is at least 20% more in the census. (3) High-poverty Area, which consists of contiguous census tracts determined by the recent federal decennial census.

Section 4 states that each city with a population of at least 50,000 inhabitant will adopt a 5-year Poverty Elimination Action Plan. Each city shall reevaluate its poverty elimination action plan every two years and update its plan every five years.

Section 5 requires during each odd-numbered year each city will electronically submit a document to the Urban Affairs Committee, that has updated the following: needs assessment, community engagement, data analysis, education and job training, affordable housing, health care access, economic development, transportation and infrastructure, social services, equity and inclusion, accountability and evaluation, long term sustainability, funding and resources, coordination and collaboration, and public awareness. The Urban Affairs Committee may request any city to present its report to the committee at a public hearing.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment 2862 is a white copy amendment that incorporates LB 840, amended by AM 2338, along with LB 881 amended by AM 2378, LB 1046 amended by AMs 2468 and 2529, LB 530 amended by AM 2807, and LB 843.

LB 840

Under the plan enacted by LB 840 and it's amendment, cities shall include their efforts to eliminate poverty. The following key components of the plan include needs assessment, community engagement, affordable housing, and health care access. This plan shall be reevaluated every two years, and updated every five years. The act is only applicable to cities of the metropolitan class and cities of the primary class.

LB 881

LB 881 amends the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act. This bill would change the definition of urban community to include an area that is within a county in which a city of the primary class is located, and counties with a population greater than one hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census that do not contain a city of the metropolitan class.

LB 881 was amended into LB 840 on a 6-0-1 vote of the committee:

Aye- Senators McKinney, Hunt, Blood, Cavanaugh, Day, Hardin

Nay- 0

Pass- Senator Lowe

LB 881 had a public hearing on January 23rd, 2024 with the following testimony:

Proponents-

Senator Beau Ballard, Opening Presenter



Stephanie Fisher, City of Waverly
Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities
Wayne Mortensen, Neighborhood Works Lincoln
Opponents- None
Neutral-
Benjamin Burnt, self

LB 1046

LB 1046 would require under the Nebraska Housing Agency Act, in a city of the metropolitan class, appointment of counsel for a resident in a termination hearing or eviction proceeding. The cost of any court-appointed counsel shall be paid by the house authority.

LB 1046 was amended into LB 840 on an 7-0 vote of the committee.
Aye- Senators McKinney, Hunt, Blood, Cavanaugh, Day, Hardin, Lowe
Nay- 0

LB 1046 had a public hearing on February 6th, 2024 with the following testimony:

Proponents-
Erin Feichtinger, Women's Fund of Omaha
Scott Mertz, Legal Aid of Nebraska
Catherine Mahern, Self
Jason Feldhaus, Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless
Destiny Fant, Together
Scout Richters, ACLU of Nebraska
Opponents- None
Neutral- None

LB 530

LB 530 changes provisions of the Nebraska Housing Agency Act to create the following changes for cities of the metropolitan class:

- There shall be nine commissioners for a local housing agency. All commissioners shall have a term of four years
- There shall be three resident commissioners
- No person who is an officer or employee of a city of the metropolitan class shall be eligible for appointment or service as a commissioner
- The chief executive officer shall be appointed
- A housing agency in a city of the metropolitan class shall establish a complaint process
- A housing agency in a city of the metropolitan class shall establish and implement an administrative grievance procedure

LB 530 was amended into LB 840 on a 6-0-1 vote of the committee:

Aye- Senators McKinney, Hunt, Blood, Cavanaugh, Day, Hardin
Nay- 0
Pass- Senator Lowe

LB 530 had a public hearing on February 28th, 2023 with the following testimony:

Proponents-
Senator McKinney, District #11
Tony Burkhalter, AFSCME Local 251
Opponents-



David Levy, Nebraska Association of Commercial Property Owners
Joel Dougherty, self
Jennifer Taylor, Omaha Housing Authority, self
Chris Lamberty, Lincoln Housing Authority, Nebraska Chapter of NAHRO
Neutral- None

LB 843

LB 843 amends the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act by firstly increasing the workforce housing investment grant program maximum from \$5 million to \$10 million. Secondly, applicants of the grant program providing matching funds would have their match decrease from at least 50% to at least 25% of the amount of such grant funds awarded.

LB 843 was amended into LB 840 on a 6-0-1 vote of the committee:

Aye- Senators McKinney, Hunt, Blood, Cavanaugh, Day, Hardin

Nay- 0

Pass- Senator Lowe

LB 843 had a public hearing on January 23rd, 2024 with the following testimony:

Proponents-

Korby Gilbertson, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, HBAL/MOBA Coalition

Kyle Johnson, South of Downtown Community Development Organization

Bob Hallstrom, Nebraska Bankers Association

Wayne Mortensen, Neighborworks Lincoln

Alec Gorynski, Lincoln Community Foundation

Bruce Bohrer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Charter Thiele, Lincoln Independent Business Association

Opponents- None

Neutral- None

Terrell McKinney, Chairperson

