

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB73

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brewer

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing:

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The County Visitors Promotion Fund was established to give local governments the option to tax hotels and motels and distribute those tax dollars via grants that will promote tourism. The law as presently written excludes any grants from being awarded to promote parimutuel wagering [Sec. 81-3717(1)] or to visitor attractions where parimutuel wagering occurs [Sec. 81-3720(1)(b)].

The bill eases some of the restrictions against grants being awarded to facilities that offer parimutuel wagering. To be consistent with the original intent of the statute, but to also accommodate the situation of racetrack facilities, the proposed language allows grants to be awarded to a licensed racetrack enclosure only if it is the site of a county fair or state fair. Fairs are typically held at large facility complexes which may also serve as entertainment or cultural destinations. The proposed language does not, however, permit grants to be awarded to racetracks that do not serve these additional local tourism functions. All other language regarding parimutuel wagering is stricken to avoid confusion.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Raymond Aguilar