

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB808

Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing:

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

LB 808 amends The Legal Education for Public Service Loan Repayment Fund to include attorneys practicing in underserved rural areas of Nebraska. The Fund was created in 2008 to establish a loan forgiveness program for Nebraska attorneys who provide public legal services. The Fund provides a maximum award amount initially \$6,000 per year per recipient but can be increased on an annual basis to adjust for inflation. Public legal services are defined as providing legal services to indigent persons while employed by a tax-exempt charitable organization. There is no current revenue stream for this Fund.

LB 808 provides funding of five hundred thousand dollars from the State Settlement Cash Fund for The Legal Education for Public Service and Rural Practice Loan Repayment Fund. Designated legal professional shortage area means a rural area within any county of Nebraska having a population of less than fifteen thousand inhabitants and not included within a metropolitan statistical area as defined by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and determined by the board to be underserved by available legal representation.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Danielle Conrad

