

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB573

Chairperson: Senator Mike Gloor

Committee: Revenue

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2015

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

The purpose of the Health Enterprise Zone pilot project created by LB573 is to target state resources and provide tax incentives to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, and reduce health costs and hospital admissions in specific areas of significant need in the state.

In order to achieve this, the three-year pilot project will:

- 1) Involve the state's local health departments to identify potential zones within their jurisdiction that have specific health disparities or needs, and to submit a plan for addressing those needs in a sustainable way, with the use of the incentives made available by the pilot project;
- 2) Create a Health Enterprise Zone Review Board which will evaluate the plans submitted and approve Health Enterprise Zones to be part of the pilot project. The Board will designate an amount of incentives that will be made available to each approved zone to fund their proposed plan;
- 3) Provide for a limited amount of funding for the selected zones' proposed plans, dependent on a local one-third match in funds, which could include providing tax credits for the new employment of medical professionals within the zone.

The pilot project will involve a partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which will collect baseline data the first year to compare with health outcome data after the three years, to measure the effectiveness of the incentives and the program.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Al Davis