

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB761

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 15, 2022
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Dorn
One Liner: Adopt the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act and state intent regarding appropriation of federal funds

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, M., Friesen, Geist, Hughes, Moser
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator DeBoer
Present Not Voting:		

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Myron Dorn
Julie Bushell
Brandon Hunnicut

Representing:

Introducer
Paige Wireless
Ag Leaders Working Group

Opponents:

Tip O'Neill

Representing:

NTA

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

A REVISED VERSION OF LB761 WAS AMENDED INTO LB1144. REFER TO THE LB1144 COMMITTEE STATEMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

The bill establishes the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Act.

Section 1- Title

Section 2- Definitions

"Adequate Broadband Speed" symmetrical speed of at least 50 Mbps.

"Department"- the Department of Economic Development.

"Provider" - any broadband Internet service provider

Section 3- Creates the Act, declared purposes are:

Lead Nebraska agricultural producers to lead the nation in precision agriculture;

Provide high speed internet to remote and high-cost areas of the state;

States legislative intent to allocate \$10 million from the American Rescue Plan Act for FY 2022-23 to the Department of Economic Development to carry out the Act.

Section 4- Grants

Eligible applicants for grant funding are providers, an agricultural cooperative, an agronomist, or an agricultural producer may apply for a grant.

One-half of funding shall be committed to providing broadband service to on-farm structures, and devices.

One-half of funding shall be provided for on-farm traceability solutions, products that improve soil health and water management tools, and products that improve autonomous solutions in agricultural machinery.

Section 5- Grant requirements

An applicant that receives funding to provide broadband services shall complete any project within 12 months after the award date and submit the project to speed tests.

Section 6- Administration

Authorizes the DED to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of the Act.

Curt Friesen, Chairperson