A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to create the Nebraska Hydrogen Hub Industry Work Group; to provide duties for the Department of Economic Development; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Department of Economic Development shall create the Nebraska Hydrogen Hub Industry Work Group. The Governor shall appoint members to the work group that include, but are not limited to, representatives from the following sectors: (a) Manufacturing or industry, (b) agriculture, (c) transportation, and (d) energy. The work group may include a representative of a clean hydrogen manufacturer.

(2) The purpose of the work group is to develop and draft a competitive proposal which may be submitted to the United States Department of Energy to be selected as one of the four regional clean hydrogen hubs authorized under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58.

(3) The Department of Economic Development may contract with private consultants to create the competitive proposal. Specifically, the work group shall determine how to maximize the state's geographic location to connect a nationwide hydrogen network. Additionally, the work group shall build a plan to make the case for an agricultural-based clean hydrogen hub, expanding the existing eligible purposes.

Sec. 2. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.