

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1116**

Introduced by Ibach, 44.

Read first time January 16, 2026

Committee: Revenue

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Sports Arena Facility Financing  
2 Assistance Act; to amend section 13-3105, Reissue Revised Statutes  
3 of Nebraska, section 13-3108, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
4 Supplement, 2024, and sections 13-3103 and 13-3106, Revised Statutes  
5 Supplement, 2025; to change provisions relating to limitations on  
6 state assistance, public hearings, and application approvals; to  
7 harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to  
8 declare an emergency.  
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           **Section 1.** Section 13-3103, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is  
2 amended to read:

3           13-3103 (1) Any applicant may apply to the board for state  
4 assistance if (a) the applicant has acquired, constructed, improved, or  
5 equipped an eligible sports arena facility, (b) the applicant has  
6 approved a revenue bond issue or a general obligation bond issue to  
7 acquire, construct, improve, or equip an eligible sports arena facility,  
8 (c) the applicant has adopted a resolution authorizing the applicant to  
9 pursue a general obligation bond issue to acquire, construct, improve, or  
10 equip an eligible sports arena facility, (d) a building permit has been  
11 issued within the applicant's jurisdiction for an eligible sports arena  
12 facility that is a privately owned concert venue, (e) a building permit  
13 has been issued or construction has been completed within the applicant's  
14 jurisdiction for an eligible sports arena facility that is a privately  
15 owned sports complex, or (f) each coapplicant described in subdivision  
16 (1)(b) of section 13-3102 has adopted a resolution authorizing either the  
17 political subdivision or the nonprofit corporation to pursue financing or  
18 bonds to acquire, construct, improve, or equip an eligible sports arena  
19 facility for the purposes set forth in subdivision (4)(b) of this section  
20 ~~13-3103~~.

21           (2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section,  
22 the state assistance shall only be used by the applicant to pay back  
23 amounts expended or borrowed through one or more issues of bonds to be  
24 expended by the applicant to acquire, construct, improve, or equip the  
25 publicly owned eligible sports arena facility and to acquire, construct,  
26 improve, or equip publicly owned nearby parking facilities.

27           (3) For an eligible sports arena facility that is a privately owned  
28 concert venue, the state assistance shall only be used by the applicant  
29 (a) to pay back amounts expended or borrowed through one or more issues  
30 of bonds to be expended by the applicant to acquire, construct, improve,  
31 or equip a nearby parking facility or (b) to promote arts and cultural

1 events which are open to or made available to the general public.

2 (4) For an eligible sports arena facility that is a privately owned  
3 sports complex, the state assistance shall only be used by the applicant:

4 (a) To pay back amounts expended or borrowed through one or more  
5 issues of bonds to be expended by the applicant to acquire, construct,  
6 improve, or equip one or more public infrastructure projects, as defined  
7 in section 77-27,142, related to a privately owned sports complex;

8 (b) To lease all or a portion of such privately owned sports complex  
9 for the governmental use of the political subdivision. For purposes of  
10 this subdivision, lease means any contractual lease agreement between the  
11 coapplicants described in subdivision (1)(b) of section 13-3102 for the  
12 use of an eligible sports arena facility at fair market rental value for  
13 a term not to exceed twenty years;

14 (c) To promote sporting events which are open to or made available  
15 to the general public; or

16 (d) To pay back amounts expended or borrowed through one or more  
17 debt issues to be expended by the nonprofit corporation coapplicant to  
18 acquire, construct, improve, or equip a privately owned sports complex,  
19 subject to voter approval as provided in section 13-3110.

20 (5)(a) No more than ten years of funding for promotion of the arts  
21 and cultural events shall be paid by state assistance received pursuant  
22 to section 13-3108.

23 (b) No more than ten years of funding for promotion of sporting  
24 events shall be paid by state assistance received pursuant to section  
25 13-3108.

26 (c) No more than ten ~~five~~ years of funding for a sports complex  
27 located in a city of the second class or village shall be paid by state  
28 assistance received pursuant to section 13-3108.

29 (6) For any application for state assistance for a large public  
30 stadium approved on or after July 19, 2024, up to one hundred percent of  
31 the final cost of the project may be funded by state assistance received

1 pursuant to section 13-3108.

2 **Sec. 2.** Section 13-3105, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
3 amended to read:

4 13-3105 (1) Within thirty days after completing the board's review  
5 of an application under subsection (4) of ~~After reviewing an application~~  
6 ~~submitted under~~ section 13-3104, the board shall hold a public hearing on  
7 the application.

8 (2) The board shall give notice of the time, place, and purpose of  
9 the public hearing by publication three times in a newspaper of general  
10 circulation in the area where the political subdivision submitting the  
11 application is located. Such publication shall be not less than ten days  
12 prior to the hearing. The notice shall describe generally the project for  
13 which state assistance has been requested. The applicant shall pay the  
14 cost of the notice.

15 (3) At the public hearing, representatives of the applicant and any  
16 other interested persons may appear and present evidence and argument in  
17 support of or in opposition to the application or neutral testimony. The  
18 board may seek expert testimony and may require testimony of persons whom  
19 the board desires to comment on the application. The board may accept  
20 additional evidence after conclusion of the public hearing.

21 **Sec. 3.** Section 13-3106, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is  
22 amended to read:

23 13-3106 (1) After consideration of the application and the evidence,  
24 the board shall determine whether or not to approve the application. For  
25 applications submitted on or after the effective date of this act, the  
26 board shall make its determination within thirty days after the public  
27 hearing held pursuant to section 13-3105. For applications submitted  
28 prior to the effective date of this act, the board shall make its  
29 determination within thirty days after the public hearing held pursuant  
30 to section 13-3105 or within thirty days after the effective date of this  
31 act, whichever period is later. The application shall be approved unless

1 ~~the board finds that the project described in the application is~~  
2 ~~ineligible or that state assistance is not in the best interest of the~~  
3 ~~state. if the board finds that the project described in the application~~  
4 ~~is eligible and that state assistance is in the best interest of the~~  
5 ~~state, the application shall be approved, except that:~~

6       (2) ~~(a)~~ An approval of an application submitted because of the  
7 requirement in subdivision (1)(c) of section 13-3103 is a temporary  
8 approval. If the general obligation bond issue is subsequently approved  
9 by the voters of the political subdivision, the approval by the board  
10 becomes permanent. If the general obligation bond issue is not approved  
11 by such voters, the temporary approval shall become void. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

12       (3) ~~(b)~~ An approval of an application submitted because of the  
13 requirement in subdivision (1)(f) of section 13-3103 is a temporary  
14 approval. If a building permit for the eligible sports arena facility is  
15 issued within twenty-four months of the temporary approval, the approval  
16 by the board becomes permanent. If a building permit is not issued within  
17 twenty-four months of the temporary approval, the temporary approval  
18 shall become void.

19       (4) ~~(2)~~ In determining whether state assistance is in the best  
20 interest of the state, the board ~~may shall~~ consider the fiscal and  
21 economic capacity of the applicant to finance the local share of the  
22 project.

23       (5) ~~(3)~~ A majority of the board members constitutes a quorum for the  
24 purpose of conducting business. All actions of the board shall be by a  
25 majority vote of ~~all~~ the board members present at the board meeting ~~, one~~  
26 ~~of whom must be the Governor.~~

27       **Sec. 4.** Section 13-3108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
28 2024, is amended to read:

29       13-3108 (1) The Sports Arena Facility Support Fund is created. Any  
30 money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state  
31 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the

1 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

2 (2)(a) Upon receiving the certification described in subsection (3)  
3 of section 13-3107, the State Treasurer shall transfer the amount  
4 certified to the fund.

5 (b) Upon receiving the quarterly certification described in  
6 subsection (4) of section 13-3107, the State Treasurer shall transfer the  
7 amount certified to the fund.

8 (3)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate from the  
9 fund money to be distributed as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of  
10 this section to any political subdivision for which an application for  
11 state assistance under the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act  
12 has been approved an amount not to exceed:

13 (i) For any eligible sports arena facility that is not a sports  
14 complex located in a city of the second class or village, seventy percent  
15 of the (A) state sales tax revenue collected by retailers doing business  
16 at eligible sports arena facilities on sales at such facilities, (B)  
17 state sales tax revenue collected on primary and secondary box office  
18 sales of admissions to such facilities, and (C) new state sales tax  
19 revenue collected by nearby retailers and sourced under sections  
20 77-2703.01 to 77-2703.04 to the program area; or

21 (ii) For any eligible sports arena facility that is a sports complex  
22 located in a city of the second class or village, twenty-five percent of  
23 the (A) state sales tax revenue collected by retailers doing business at  
24 eligible sports arena facilities on sales at such facilities, (B) state  
25 sales tax revenue collected on primary and secondary box office sales of  
26 admissions to such facilities, and (C) new state sales tax revenue  
27 collected by nearby retailers and sourced under sections 77-2703.01 to  
28 77-2703.04 to the program area.

29 (b) The amount to be appropriated for distribution as state  
30 assistance to a political subdivision under this subsection for any one  
31 year after the tenth year shall not exceed the highest such amount

1 appropriated under subdivision (3)(a) of this section during any one year  
2 of the first ten years of such appropriation. If seventy percent of the  
3 state sales tax revenue as described in subdivision (3)(a) of this  
4 section exceeds the amount to be appropriated under this subdivision,  
5 such excess funds shall be transferred to the General Fund. This  
6 subdivision does not apply to any eligible sports arena facility that is  
7 a sports complex located in a city of the second class or village.

8 (4) The amount certified under subsection (3) of section 13-3107  
9 shall be distributed as state assistance on or before April 15, 2014.

10 (5) Beginning in 2014, quarterly distributions and associated  
11 transfers of state assistance shall be made. Such quarterly distributions  
12 and transfers shall be based on the certifications provided under  
13 subsection (4) of section 13-3107 and shall occur within fifteen days  
14 after receipt of such certification.

15 (6)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (6)(b) of this section, the  
16 total amount of state assistance approved for an eligible sports arena  
17 facility shall not exceed one hundred million dollars.

18 (b) For any eligible sports arena facility that is a large public  
19 stadium:

20 (i) The total amount of state assistance approved for such facility  
21 shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars;

22 (ii) The amount of state assistance approved for such facility for  
23 any year shall not exceed one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars;  
24 and

25 (iii) No state assistance for any large public stadium shall be paid  
26 until after July 1, 2027.

27 (7)(a) Except as provided in subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) of this  
28 subsection, state assistance to the political subdivision shall no longer  
29 be available upon the retirement of the bonds issued to acquire,  
30 construct, improve, or equip the facility or any subsequent bonds that  
31 refunded the original issue or when state assistance reaches the amount

1 determined under subdivision (6)(a) of this section, whichever comes  
2 first.

3 (b) If the state assistance will be used to provide funding for  
4 promotion of the arts and cultural events or for promotion of sporting  
5 events, such state assistance to the political subdivision shall no  
6 longer be available after ten years of funding or when state assistance  
7 reaches the amount determined under subdivision (6)(a) of this section,  
8 whichever comes first.

9 (c) If the state assistance will be used to provide funding for a  
10 sports complex located in a city of the second class or village, such  
11 state assistance to the political subdivision shall no longer be  
12 available after ~~ten~~ five years of funding or when state assistance  
13 reaches the amount determined under subdivision (6)(a) of this section,  
14 whichever comes first.

15 (d) If the state assistance will be used to provide funding for a  
16 large public stadium, such state assistance to the political subdivision  
17 shall no longer be available after twenty years of funding or when state  
18 assistance reaches the amount determined under subdivision (6)(b)(i) of  
19 this section, whichever comes first.

20 (8) State assistance shall not be used for an operating subsidy for  
21 any publicly owned eligible sports arena facility or nearby parking  
22 facility.

23 (9) The thirty percent of state sales tax revenue remaining after  
24 the appropriation and transfer in subdivision (3)(a)(i) of this section  
25 shall be appropriated by the Legislature and transferred quarterly as  
26 follows:

27 (a) If the revenue relates to an eligible sports arena facility that  
28 is a sports complex and that is approved for state assistance under  
29 section 13-3106 on or after May 26, 2021, eighty-three percent of such  
30 revenue shall be transferred to the Support the Arts Cash Fund and  
31 seventeen percent of such revenue shall be transferred to the Convention

1 Center Support Fund; and

2 (b) If the revenue relates to any other eligible sports arena  
3 facility, such revenue shall be transferred to the Civic and Community  
4 Center Financing Fund.

5 (10) The seventy-five percent of state sales tax revenue remaining  
6 after the appropriation and transfer in subdivision (3)(a)(ii) of this  
7 section shall be distributed in accordance with section 77-27,132.

8 (11) Except as provided in subsection (12) of this section for a  
9 city of the primary class, any municipality that has applied for and  
10 received a grant of assistance under the Civic and Community Center  
11 Financing Act shall not receive state assistance under the Sports Arena  
12 Facility Financing Assistance Act for the same project for which the  
13 grant was awarded under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act.

14 (12) A city of the primary class shall not be eligible to receive a  
15 grant of assistance from the Civic and Community Center Financing Act if  
16 the city has applied for and received a grant of assistance under the  
17 Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act.

18 **Sec. 5.** Original section 13-3105, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
19 Nebraska, section 13-3108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024,  
20 and sections 13-3103 and 13-3106, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, are  
21 repealed.

22 **Sec. 6.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
23 passed and approved according to law.