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LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 953

Introduced by von Gillern, 4.

Read first time January 12, 2026

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Site and Building Development Act; to amend sections 81-12,147 and 81-12,148, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions related to eligible activities for and requirements for assistance from the Site and Building Development Fund; and to repeal the original sections.

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

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Section 1. Section 81-12,147, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-12,147 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the Department of Economic Development shall use the Site and Building Development Fund to finance loans, grants, subsidies, credit enhancements, and other financial assistance for industrial site and building development and for expenses of the department as appropriated by the Legislature for administering the fund. The following activities are eligible for assistance from the fund:

(a) Grants or zero-interest loans to villages, cities, or counties to acquire land, infuse infrastructure, or otherwise make large sites and buildings ready for industrial development;

(b) Matching funds for new construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of land and buildings to assist villages, cities, and counties;

(c) Technical assistance, design and finance services, and consultation for villages, cities, and counties for the preparation and creation of industrial-ready sites and buildings;

(d) Loan guarantees for eligible projects;

(e) Projects making industrial-ready sites and buildings more accessible to business and industry;

(f) Infrastructure projects necessary for the development of industrial-ready sites and buildings;

(g) Projects that mitigate the economic impact of a closure or downsizing of a private-sector entity by making necessary improvements to buildings and infrastructure;

(h) Public and private sector initiatives that will improve the military value of military installations by making necessary improvements to buildings and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, a grant for the establishment of the United States Strategic Command Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications public-private-partnership facility;

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(i) A grant to a city of the second class that is served by two first-class railroads, that is within fifteen miles of two state borders, and that partners with public power utilities for purposes of expanding electrical system capacities and enhancing redundancy and resilience;

(j) A grant of two million dollars to a city of the first class located in the third congressional district if the property previously housed a university or college that is no longer extant and if the improvement and revitalization of the real property is for purposes of supporting the housing, employment, and program needs of youth exiting the foster care system. In addition, the real property may be used for youth exiting juvenile court supervision in an out-of-home placement;

(k) Public and private sector initiatives that will improve the value of cities of the second class that have partnered with the United States Department of Defense or its contractors on upgrades to ground-based nuclear deterrence. Such improvements include the construction of electrical, drinking water, and clean water infrastructure; ~~and~~

(l) Identification, evaluation, and development of large commercial and industrial sites and building infrastructure to attract major investment and employment opportunities for advanced manufacturing, processing, trade, technology, aerospace, automotive, clean energy, life science, and other transformational industries in Nebraska by means of the department providing grants to or partnering with political subdivisions, including inland port authorities under the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act, or nonprofit economic development corporations and entering into contracts for consulting, engineering, and development studies to identify, evaluate, and develop large commercial and industrial sites in Nebraska; and ~~.~~

(m) Grants to political subdivisions and nationally and state accredited golf associations to construct golf facilities and related infrastructure. Such facilities shall be located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class.

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(2) The Department of Economic Development shall use the subaccount of the Site and Building Development Fund described in subsection (2) of section 81-12,146 to provide financial assistance to any inland port authority created under the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act to help finance large shovel-ready commercial and industrial sites developed under such act.

Sec. 2. Section 81-12,148, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-12,148 (1) Governmental subdivisions and Nebraska nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive assistance under the Site and Building Development Act. Any entity receiving assistance under subsection (1) of section 81-12,147 shall provide, or cause to be provided, matching funds for the eligible activity in an amount determined by the Department of Economic Development, which amount shall be at least equal to one hundred percent of the amount of assistance provided by the Site and Building Development Fund. Nothing in the act shall be construed to allow individuals or businesses to receive direct loans from the fund.

(2) An applicant for a grant for development of a public-private-partnership facility under subdivision (1)(h) of section 81-12,147 shall provide the Director of Economic Development with a letter of support from the United States Strategic Command prior to approval of the application and with proof of the availability of twenty million dollars in private or other funds for the facility. No funds shall be expended or grants awarded until receipt of proof of the availability of twenty million dollars in private or other funds for the facility and certification is provided by the Director of Economic Development to the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(3) An applicant for a grant for development under subdivision (1)(k) of section 81-12,147 is not required to meet the matching fund

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requirements pursuant to this section but shall provide the Director of Economic Development a letter from the United States Department of Defense or contractor providing upgrades to ground-based nuclear deterrence that infrastructure improvements, including the construction of electrical, drinking water, and clean water infrastructure, will not be included in the scope of the project. No grants shall be awarded or funds expended until such letter is received.

(4)(a) An applicant for a grant for construction of a golf facility under subdivision (1)(m) of section 81-12,147 shall, prior to approval of the application, provide the Director of Economic Development with:

(i) Documentation demonstrating the facility's programming for veterans;

(ii) Documentation demonstrating the facility's programming for youth;

(iii) A letter of support from a nationally accredited golf association;

(iv) A letter of support from a state accredited golf association;

(v) A letter of support from the mayor of the city of the metropolitan class where the facility will be located; and

(vi) Proof of funding for at least eight percent of the total costs of the construction.

(b) A grant issued under this subsection shall not exceed twenty percent of the total costs of the construction.

(5) ~~(4)~~ This section does not apply to any inland port authority receiving assistance under subsection (2) of section 81-12,147.

Sec. 3. Original sections 81-12,147 and 81-12,148, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.