

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
2008**

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB726

Hearing Date: January 23, 2008

Committee On: Natural Resources

Introducer(s): (Natural Resources Committee)

Title: Change provisions relating to the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Placed on General File

Vote Results:

8 Yes	Senators Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Fischer, Hudkins, Kopplin, Loudon, Wallman
0 No	None
0 Absent	None
0 Present, not voting	None

Proponents:

Jody Gittins
Pat Rice
Gary Krumland

Representing:

Introducer
Department of Environmental Quality
League of Nebraska Municipalities

Opponents:

Representing:

None

Neutral:

None

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or change:

LB 726 does the following:

Section 1 Amends the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund by allowing the Department of Environmental Quality to use up to sixty-five percent of the revenue from administrative fees collected in the prior fiscal year, and allows the director to transfer money in the Construction Administration Fund to the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund to meet the match requirements of any applicable federal grants.

Section 2 Increases the eligible size of a municipality that may apply for a grant under this program from five thousand inhabitants to ten thousand inhabitants. It also removes the cap of five hundred thousand dollars. Authorizes the department to provide financial assistance under this program to municipalities of ten thousand inhabitants or less for completion of engineering studies, research projects, investigating low-cost options for achieving compliance with the Clean Water Act, encouraging wastewater reuse, and conducting other studies for the purpose of enhancing the ability of the communities to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

It moves the requirement that the community applying for a grant must demonstrate serious financial hardship, and removes the cap on such grants.

Currently the cap is one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

Changes the word "grant" to "financial assistance".

Section 3 Repealer.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

None

Senator LeRoy Loudon, Chairperson