

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 232

FINAL READING

Introduced by Dubas, 34; Adams, 24; Aguilar, 35; Avery, 28; Carlson, 38; Dierks, 40; Karpisek, 32; Rogert, 16; White, 8; Fischer, 43; Harms, 48; McDonald, 41

Read first time January 9, 2007

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Building Entrepreneurial Communities
2 Act; to amend sections 81-12,126 and 81-12,127, Revised
3 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006; to provide for
4 community initiatives to attract new residents and
5 for planning grants; to change provisions relating to
6 recipients of grants and matching funds as prescribed; to
7 define a term; and to repeal the original sections.

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

1 Section 1. Section 81-12,126, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

3 81-12,126 The purpose of the Building Entrepreneurial
4 Communities Act is to support economically depressed rural areas
5 of Nebraska in building entrepreneurial communities through grants
6 that will create community capacity to build and sustain programs
7 to generate and retain wealth in the community and region.
8 Specifically, the act will:

9 (1) Provide education and technical assistance to
10 energize small business development and entrepreneurship;

11 (2) Provide technical assistance to facilitate small
12 business transfer;

13 (3) Build community business capacity and leadership
14 programs;

15 (4) Generate opportunities that will attract and retain
16 young people and families;

17 (5) Provide education about philanthropy and
18 intergenerational transfer of wealth; and

19 (6) Build community endowments to support these
20 activities; and -

21 (7) Establish community initiatives to attract new
22 residents.

23 Sec. 2. Section 81-12,127, Revised Statutes Cumulative
24 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

25 81-12,127 (1) The Department of Economic Development,

1 with assistance provided by the Rural Development Commission, shall
2 establish and administer a grant process to provide grants to
3 ~~two or more municipalities, counties, unincorporated areas within~~
4 ~~a county,~~ local units of government or census tracts that are
5 collaborating on a project related to the purpose of the Building
6 Entrepreneurial Communities Act with priority given to projects
7 that best alleviate chronic economic distress. At least one of the
8 collaborating ~~municipalities, counties, unincorporated areas within~~
9 ~~a county,~~ local units of government or census tracts shall have
10 chronic economic distress as indicated by:

11 (a) An unemployment rate which exceeds the statewide
12 average unemployment rate;

13 (b) A per capita income below the statewide average per
14 capita income; or

15 (c) A population loss between the two most recent federal
16 decennial censuses.

17 (2) Grants shall not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars
18 per collaborative project. Grant recipients shall have two years
19 to expend the grant funds. No ~~municipality or county~~ local unit of
20 government shall receive funding for more than one project. Grant
21 recipients shall provide fifty cents of matching funds in cash for
22 each dollar of grant funds, except that in limited resource areas
23 the cash match requirement is twenty-five cents for each dollar of
24 grant funds. ~~a dollar-for-dollar match in money for grant funds.~~
25 Grants shall be awarded directly to one of the ~~municipalities or~~

1 ~~counties~~ local units of government representing the collaborative
2 project. The department shall act as the fiduciary agent for the
3 grants.

4 (3) Planning grants may be awarded to limited resource
5 areas in amounts not exceeding five thousand dollars for the
6 purpose of establishing collaborations and developing proposals for
7 submission under this section. There is no match requirement for
8 planning grants.

9 (4) For purposes of this section, limited resource areas
10 means areas that meet at least one of the following criteria:

11 (a) A per capita income below the statewide average per
12 capita income by at least twenty percent; or

13 (b) A population loss in the previous twenty years of at
14 least twenty percent.

15 Sec. 3. Original sections 81-12,126 and 81-12,127,
16 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, are repealed.