



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 697

Chairperson: Ray Janssen
Committee: Revenue
Date of Hearing: February 15, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 697 would allow the creation of Entertainment and Tourism Development Districts. Cities, counties or joint entities could apply to a board consisting of the Governor, State Treasurer and the Chairman of the Investment Council for the creation of the district. The criteria include unemployment and underdevelopment, especially land that is not in highest and best use. The area could be up to 10 miles outside the boundaries of an applying city of the Metropolitan or Primary class, up to six miles outside the boundaries of an applying city of the first class or joint entity, and up to three miles outside the boundaries an an applying city of the second class, village or joint entity.

Once designated, projects in the area could be eligible for financial assistance to the city. The project must result in at least \$20 million of new investment and 75 new jobs to be eligible for the financial assistance. The board mentioned earlier would also approve applications for financial assistance. If approved, the city may receive assistance in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the state sales tax generated in the area and up to 75 percent of any local sales tax and lodging tax that might be applicable. The assistance would be returned to the city and could be used to service bonds issued for the public infrastructure serving the area.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator John Nelson