



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 859

Chairperson: Lavon Heidemann
Committee: Appropriations
Date of Hearing: January 31, 2008

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

LB859 provides \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 to support technical assistance in downtown revitalization to Nebraska communities through the Nebraska Lied Main Street Program. The money will be matched by \$100,000 in private funds provided by the 14-year-old statewide organization.

Main Street uses the Four-Point Approach™ of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center to provide assistance in Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic Restructuring for communities with populations under 50,000. The approach has been used successfully for 28 years in more than 2,000 communities in 45 states and regions. In Fiscal Year 2006-2007 in Nebraska, more than \$35 was reinvested in the community for every \$1 spent to operate a local Main Street program.

Governor Heineman recommended this state match for FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-2009 in his budget last year. The Appropriations Committee approved the first year but not the second, because matching funds from the Lied Foundation will expire in June 2008. The Committee said it would recommend a state match, if the Main Street program secured a private match from an alternate source. That private match is now in place.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Dave Pankonin