



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 912

Chairperson: Ray Janssen
Committee: Revenue
Date of Hearing: February 6, 2008

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

This bill expands the scope of LB 551 (2006) to encourage public-private partnerships in building local event facilities. To that end, LB 912 amends the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act (Act) to allow for the turnback of state sales tax revenue generated from (1) a publicly or privately owned arena and convention center, and (2) any hotels located within 450 yards of such facilities. Seventy percent of the turnback revenue would go to construction or improvement of eligible facilities. The remaining thirty percent would go to the Local Civic, Cultural, and Convention Center (LCCC) Financing Fund, which finances grants to communities for improving local tourism attractions. The LCCC Fund is an important and valuable resource for communities across the state seeking to restore local treasures to their prior prestige and stimulate economic development.

LB 912 does not amend the sunset clause in the current Act. Applications for assistance pursuant to the Act must be submitted by June 1, 2010. LB 912 also retains the requirement that state assistance received under the Act may be used only for a public purpose.

In Lincoln, these turnback dollars would help finance a new arena. A new Lincoln arena would replace the outdated Pershing Center. Lincoln finds itself in a position where the Pershing Center is no longer as desired a venue for concerts, sporting contests, conventions, and other events. Pershing simply can no longer handle the logistical requirements that many performers and promoters require. Omaha built the Qwest Center approximately 50 years after the Civic Auditorium opened. Lincoln now finds itself in the same position with Pershing. To meet its growing needs, Lincoln must build a replacement facility.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Bill Avery