

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 624

Introduced by Haar, 21.

Read first time January 21, 2009

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to energy; to provide for energy efficiency
2 loans for public buildings; to create a fund; to define
3 terms; and to provide duties for the State Energy Office.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that it is vital for
2 Nebraska's public buildings to be as efficient as possible in
3 their use of energy. It further finds the following benefits
4 from increasing public building energy efficiency: (1) Tax dollar
5 savings; (2) a reduction in the amount of money expended on
6 imported fuel sources; (3) a reduction in the need for new power
7 plants; (4) a reduction in negative environmental impacts of energy
8 generation and consumption; (5) the generation of positive economic
9 activity; and (6) the creation of jobs.

10 Sec. 2. The Public Building Energy Efficiency Fund is
11 created. Any political subdivision may apply to the State Energy
12 Office for a public building energy efficiency loan. It is the
13 intent of the Legislature that the State Energy Office be eligible
14 to receive grants, loans, and federal funds for deposit into the
15 Public Building Energy Efficiency Fund. Any money in the fund
16 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
17 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
18 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

19 Loans received pursuant to this section shall be used
20 only for energy-efficiency projects approved by the State Energy
21 Office at the time the loan is approved. Energy-efficiency projects
22 may include building and equipment improvements. Building and
23 equipment improvements include, but are not limited to, lighting,
24 heating, ventilation and air conditioning, windows, insulation, and
25 energy control or management systems.

1 Sec. 3. (1) The State Energy Office shall approve
2 energy-efficiency loan applications for proposed projects which
3 reduce energy use or result in a more efficient use of available
4 energy resources. In determining whether to approve or deny such
5 application, the State Energy Office shall consider the type of
6 project proposed and the life expectancy, projected energy savings,
7 and simple payback of the project. For purposes of this subsection,
8 simple payback means the cost of the project divided by the first
9 year's estimated savings resulting from the project.

10 (2) Following approval of an energy-efficiency loan
11 application pursuant to this section, the State Energy Office
12 shall submit vouchers against the Public Building Energy Efficiency
13 Fund to the Director of Administrative Services. The State Energy
14 Office shall maintain records of the amount of funds loaned,
15 the balance of the Public Building Energy Efficiency Fund, and
16 repayments to the fund.

17 Sec. 4. The State Energy Office shall create loan
18 application forms and standard contracts for repayment of loans.
19 Loans shall be repaid in biannual payments, with the first payment
20 due six months after the date the project is completed. Such
21 loans shall carry no interest or finance charge, and payments
22 shall be deposited by the State Treasurer into the Public Building
23 Energy Efficiency Fund. The amount of each payment shall be
24 established by the State Energy Office, which shall be no less than
25 one-fourth nor greater than one-half of the estimated first-year

1 savings resulting from the project established in the approved
2 loan application. The State Energy Office shall compile records
3 of all loan applications and the amount of energy and financial
4 savings resulting from approved loans. Loans shall be distributed
5 geographically throughout the state to the extent possible.