

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB685**

---

**Chairperson: Senator Bill Avery**

**Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs**

**Date of Hearing: March 09, 2011**

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

The purpose of LB 685 and AM 31 is to assist Nebraska communities in generating new revenue and economic activity through the use of a County Visitors Improvements and/or Promotion fund. As tourism is the third largest industry in the state, and given the current budget deficit, an opportunity exists to grow tourism through lodging tax dollars to make improvements and to promote tourism attractions.

Under current law, the Nebraska Visitors Development Act authorizes the use of county lodging tax dollars for the improvement and promotion of tourism attractions, events or activities. The governing body of a county administers the lodging tax money through grants under the County Visitors Improvement/Promotion fund, with the advice of the Visitors Committee. LB 685 and AM 31 provide criteria for the membership of the Visitors Committee and guidelines for the grant determination process.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Ken Schilz**