

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2018**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB379**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday March 08, 2017  
**Committee On:** Appropriations  
**Introducer:** Harr  
**One Liner:** Create the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund and provide for a transfer of funds

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	8	Senators Bolz, Clements, Hilkemann, Kuehn, McDonnell, Stinner, Vargas, Wishart
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Watermeier
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Burke Harr  
Ashley Olson  
Andrew Jewell  
Charles Johanningsmeier

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Willa Cather Foundation  
Professor - UNL  
Professor - UNO

**Opponents:**

Andy Pollock  
John Ricks

**Representing:**

Nebraska Travel Association  
Nebraska Tourism Commission

**Neutral:**

Trevor Jones

**Representing:**

Nebraska State Historical Society

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 379 creates the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund to preserve and restore Will Cather-related properties, specifically the Cather House and the Antonia Farmhouse. The Fund is to be administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM1452 permits the Department of Economic Development to use the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund to provide grants of assistance in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings owned by a nonprofit organization if a contractual relationship is created between a municipality and the nonprofit organization. The amendment also allows the Nebraska State Historical Society to enter into an agreement with the Willa Cather Foundation to transfer clear title of properties described in Section 82-130 from the State to the Foundation at no cost to either party other than property transfer transactional costs which are shared equally by each party. In order to carry out any agreements made, the Nebraska State Historical Society may dispose of these real properties using the vacant building and excess land process under Sections 72-811 to 72-818.

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John Stinner, Chairperson