

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 356

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

Read first time January 13, 2017

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Arts Council; to amend section
- 2 13-208, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to change
- 3 provisions relating to tax credits as prescribed; to define a term;
- 4 to create and provide uses for a fund; to provide powers and duties;
- 5 to provide for transfers of funds; to repeal the original section;
- 6 and to declare an emergency.
- 7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 13-208, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2016, is amended to read:

3 13-208 The total amount of tax credit granted for programs approved
4 and certified under the Community Development Assistance Act by the
5 department for any fiscal year shall not exceed three hundred fifty
6 thousand dollars, except that for fiscal years 2017-18 through 2026-27
7 ~~fiscal year 2016-17~~, the total amount of tax credit granted under this
8 section shall be reduced by seventy-five thousand dollars.

9 Sec. 2. (1) The Civic Engagement Cash Fund is created in the
10 Nebraska Arts Council. The fund shall consist of funds transferred as
11 provided in this section and section 6 of this act, any other funds
12 appropriated by the Legislature, and funds received as donations, gifts,
13 bequests, or devises. Any money in the fund available for investment
14 shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the
15 Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment
16 Act.

17 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that seventy-five thousand
18 dollars be transferred from the General Fund to the Civic Engagement Cash
19 Fund each fiscal year for fiscal years 2017-18 through 2026-27. The
20 Nebraska Arts Council shall use the Civic Engagement Cash Fund to award a
21 grant to the Nebraska affiliate of a grant-making body that provides
22 financial assistance to organizations such as museums and community
23 groups to conduct research, promote education, and provide community
24 resources for purposes of providing grants to eligible nonpartisan,
25 nonprofit civic engagement projects as defined in section 3 of this act.
26 Transfers from the Civic Engagement Cash Fund are not authorized.

27 Sec. 3. For purposes of sections 2 to 6 of this act, civic
28 engagement project includes, but is not limited to, promotion of
29 volunteerism, nonpartisan voter registration activities and
30 participation, civic education, equality and inclusion in community life,
31 leadership development, nonpartisanship, diplomacy, civil discourse,

1 charitable giving, membership in community organizations, neighborhood
2 organizations, and activities that increase confidence in civic
3 institutions.

4 Sec. 4. Funds appropriated to the Civic Engagement Cash Fund
5 pursuant to sections 2 and 6 of this act shall not be used to fund (1)
6 any organization that engages in direct political advocacy for or against
7 a candidate, a ballot question committee as defined in section 49-1406,
8 or a political party, (2) activities that make direct or indirect
9 communications for or against a candidate for public office, a ballot
10 initiative, question committee as defined in section 49-1406, or a
11 political party, (3) activities supporting or opposing any individual
12 seeking public office, a ballot initiative, or a political party, or (4)
13 coordinating activities with a candidate for public office or a political
14 party or a campaign related to a ballot initiative.

15 Sec. 5. The Nebraska Arts Council shall report annually to the
16 Clerk of the Legislature regarding projects funded with grants from the
17 Civic Engagement Cash Fund. The report shall be submitted electronically.
18 The report shall cover the period July 1 through June 30 and shall be
19 submitted no later than November 1 of each year.

20 Sec. 6. (1) No later than July 15, 2017, the State Treasurer shall
21 transfer seventy-five thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Civic
22 Engagement Cash Fund.

23 (2) No later than July 15, 2018, the State Treasurer shall transfer
24 seventy-five thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Civic
25 Engagement Cash Fund.

26 Sec. 7. Original section 13-208, Revised Statutes Cumulative
27 Supplement, 2016, is repealed.

28 Sec. 8. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
29 passed and approved according to law.