

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 768

Introduced by Quick, 35; Crawford, 45; Hansen, 26; Kolowski, 31;
McCollister, 20; Stinner, 48; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee: Urban Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Local Option Municipal Economic
- 2 Development Act; to amend section 18-2705, Revised Statutes
- 3 Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to redefine economic development
- 4 program to include early childhood infrastructure development for
- 5 cities of the first and second class and villages; and to repeal the
- 6 original section.
- 7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 18-2705, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2016, is amended to read:

3 18-2705 (1) Economic development program means any project or
4 program utilizing funds derived from local sources of revenue for the
5 purpose of providing direct or indirect financial assistance to a
6 qualifying business or the payment of related costs and expenses or both,
7 without regard to whether that business is identified at the time the
8 project or program is initiated or is to be determined by specified means
9 at some time in the future.

10 (2) An economic development program may include, but shall not be
11 limited to, the following activities: Direct loans or grants to
12 qualifying businesses for fixed assets or working capital or both; loan
13 guarantees for qualifying businesses; grants for public works
14 improvements which are essential to the location or expansion of, or the
15 provision of new services by, a qualifying business; grants or loans to
16 qualifying businesses for job training; the purchase of real estate,
17 options for such purchases, and the renewal or extension of such options;
18 grants or loans to qualifying businesses to provide relocation incentives
19 for new residents; the issuance of bonds as provided for in the Local
20 Option Municipal Economic Development Act; and payments for salaries and
21 support of city staff to implement the economic development program or
22 the contracting of such to an outside entity.

23 (3) For cities of the first and second class and villages, an
24 economic development program may also include grants or loans for the
25 construction or rehabilitation for sale or lease of housing for persons
26 of low or moderate income.

27 (4) For cities of the first and second class and villages, an
28 economic development program may also include grants, loans, or funds for
29 rural infrastructure development as defined in section 66-2102.

30 (5) For cities of the first and second class and villages, an
31 economic development program may also include grants or loans for the

1 construction or rehabilitation for sale or lease of housing as part of a
2 workforce housing plan.

3 (6) For cities of the first and second class and villages, an
4 economic development program may also include grants, loans, or funds for
5 early childhood infrastructure development. For purposes of this
6 subsection:

7 (a) Early childhood infrastructure development means planning,
8 financing, developing, acquiring, constructing, owning, operating,
9 evaluating, or maintaining an early childhood education program of
10 recognized quality or entering into any agreement with an existing early
11 childhood education program of known quality to address early childhood
12 education shortages that impair the ability of the city or village to
13 attract new businesses or that impair the ability of existing businesses
14 to recruit new employees; and

15 (b) Quality means meeting or exceeding a step three quality rating
16 based on quality rating criteria as provided under the Step Up to Quality
17 Child Care Act.

18 (7) ~~(6)~~ An economic development program may be conducted jointly by
19 two or more cities after the approval of the program by the voters of
20 each participating city.

21 Sec. 2. Original section 18-2705, Revised Statutes Cumulative
22 Supplement, 2016, is repealed.