

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB187

Hearing Date: Friday February 22, 2019
Committee On: Revenue
Introducer: Lindstrom
One Liner: Change the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Briese, Crawford, Friesen, Kolterman, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Groene

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Brett Lindstrom
Jeff Ledent
Aimee Melton
Jeff Weak
Jeff McPeak
Dan Muhleisen

Andy Pollock

Representing:

Introducer
Millard United Sports
Omaha City Council
EMJ Consulting
Self
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Lancaster Convention and Visitors Bureau
Nebraska Travel Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB187 proposes to add a two new definitions to an eligible sports arena facility to the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act. The first new definition is for any sports complex which would include concession areas, parking facilities and onsite administrative offices connected with operating the sports complex. The second new definition is for a multipurpose field. A multipurpose field is defined to mean a rectangular field of grass or synthetic turf which is primarily used for competitive field sports. Competitive sports may include soccer, football, flag football, lacrosse or rugby.

The bill would repeal the occupancy requirement to receive a turn back of sales tax and replaces occupancy with project completion date. Project completion date is defined as:

- Projects involving the acquisition or construction of any eligible sports arena facility, the date of initial occupancy of the facility following the completion of such acquisition or construction; or
- For all other projects, the date of completion of the project for which state assistance is received.

To qualify for the sales tax turn back, a sports complex is a facility that includes indoor areas, outdoor areas, or both, be primarily used for competitive sports and contain at least 12 separate sports venues if located in a city of the metropolitan class; 8 separate sports venues if located in a city of the primary class; or 4 separate sports venues if located in a city of the first class, second class, village or county.

Sports venues may include, but are not limited to:

- A baseball field;
- A softball field;
- A multipurpose field;
- An outdoor stadium primarily used for competitive sports;
- An outdoor arena primarily used for competitive sports; or
- An enclosed, temperature-controlled building primarily used for competitive sports

The details required in an application for the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act, the requirement for a public hearing on the application, and the approval or denial of the application are not changed by LB187.

The bill has the Emergency Clause.

Lou Ann Linehan, Chairperson