

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB224

Chairperson: Senator Matt Williams

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2019

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

The Nebraska Educational, Health, and Social Services Finance Authority (NEHSFA) is currently authorized to be a conduit issuer of tax exempt bonds for private not-for-profit colleges, private not-for-profit hospitals, and certain not-for-profit social service organizations. The NEHSFA is governed by a Board appointed by the Governor, receives no state general funds, and operates entirely with user fees. Bonds issued by the NEHSFA are not obligations of the State of Nebraska or any political subdivision.

LB 224 allows NEHSFA to also be a conduit issuer for private cultural institutions. A private cultural institution is defined as a private not-for-profit corporation or institution that has a primary purpose of promoting cultural education or development. This bill allows cultural organizations to finance or refinance cultural assets they deem important to the economic vitality of their locality.

LB 224 renames the NEHSFA the Nebraska Educational, Health, Cultural, and Social Services Finance Authority and changes the reference throughout all pertinent sections to more accurately describe its duties. LB 224 also provides a definition of a "Private Cultural Institution" and amends 58-802 to describe in the Legislative Findings the importance of including cultural institutions.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Joni Albrecht