

AMENDMENTS TO LB549

Introduced by Urban Affairs.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 9 of this act shall be known and may be
4 cited as the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Act.

5 Sec. 2. The purpose of the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency
6 Assistance Act is to assist municipalities which own and operate a
7 natural gas plant or natural gas system in addressing extraordinary costs
8 due to extreme weather events.

9 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency
10 Assistance Act:

11 (1) Extraordinary costs means expenses that exceed the usual,
12 average, or budgeted costs related to procuring and delivering natural
13 gas, including the purchase of spot or incremental natural gas, the
14 purchase of gas to replenish depleted storage, overtime pay for utility
15 workers, costs related to propane injection, and pipeline charges beyond
16 the scope of normal and customary charges;

17 (2) Extreme weather event means a weather event occurring on or
18 after January 1, 2021, including, but not limited to, snow, rain,
19 drought, flood, storm, extreme heat, or extreme cold, that generates
20 extraordinary costs related to such event; and

21 (3) Municipality means any city of the first class, city of the
22 second class, or village which owns or operates a natural gas plant or
23 natural gas system.

24 Sec. 4. A municipality may apply to the State Treasurer for a grant
25 under the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Act to cover
26 up to ninety percent of the extraordinary costs incurred by such
27 municipality as a result of an extreme weather event. Applications shall

1 be submitted on a form prescribed by the State Treasurer. Each
2 application shall include the amount of grant funds requested, the date
3 or dates of the extreme weather event, and documentation of the
4 extraordinary costs incurred as a result of such extreme weather event.
5 The State Treasurer shall consider applications in the order in which
6 they are received and may approve applications within the limits of
7 available appropriations. The State Treasurer shall not be required to
8 verify the information provided in the application.

9 Sec. 5. The Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Fund
10 is created. The fund shall be used by the State Treasurer to make grants
11 to municipalities under the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency
12 Assistance Act and to defray any administrative expenses incurred by the
13 State Treasurer in carrying out the act. The fund shall consist of
14 appropriations made by the Legislature, transfers authorized by the
15 Legislature, and any federal funds which may become available for the
16 purposes of the act. Any money in the fund available for investment shall
17 be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska
18 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

19 Sec. 6. The State Treasurer shall transfer ten million dollars from
20 the General Fund to the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance
21 Fund on the effective date of this act or as soon thereafter as
22 administratively practicable.

23 Sec. 7. On or before December 31 of each year, the State Treasurer
24 shall electronically submit a report to the Urban Affairs Committee of
25 the Legislature documenting the grants approved under the Municipal
26 Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Act during the calendar year.

27 Sec. 8. The State Treasurer may adopt and promulgate rules and
28 regulations to carry out the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency
29 Assistance Act.

30 Sec. 9. The Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Act
31 terminates on June 30, 2023. The State Treasurer shall transfer any

1 unobligated money remaining in the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency
2 Assistance Fund on such date to the General Fund.

3 Sec. 10. The Revisor of Statutes shall assign sections 1 to 9 of
4 this act to a new article in Chapter 19.

5 Sec. 11. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
6 passed and approved according to law.