

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB598

Hearing Date: Monday February 08, 2021
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Wishart
One Liner: Adopt the Small Business Stabilization Grant Program Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Blood, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, B., Hansen, M., Hunt, Lathrop
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Anna Wishart
Kristen Hassebrook

Joseph D. Kohout

Katherine White

Representing:

Introducer
NE Chamber, Greater Omaha Chamber, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Associated Beverage Distributors of NE, NE Golf Alliance, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, NE Regional Officials Council
LIBA

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:

Bob Hallstrom

Representing:

National Federation of Independent Business, NE Bankers Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB598 will provide grants up to \$12,000.00 to small businesses that experience a significant loss of revenue as a result of any natural disaster, pandemic, or state emergency.

Section by Section

Sec 1: Known as the Small Business Stabilization Grant Program Act.

Sec 2: Purpose of the act to provide funds to small businesses that lose revenue as a result from a qualifying event.

Sec 3: Eligible Business: "a for-profit Nebraska business that had no more than \$1million in revenue the previous Year."

Qualifying Event: "natural disaster, pandemic, or other event in which the state emergency proclamation is issued by the Governor."

Sec 4: Significant Loss in Revenue is established by the business having a 50% or greater decline in monthly revenue compared to the same month in the prior year.

Grant(s) will be distributed on a first come first serve basis and each grant will be no greater than \$12,000.00.

Sec 5: The Legislature is to appropriate \$20 million for fiscal year 2021-2022 to fund the program.

Explanation of amendments:

AM549 will strike original section 5, Change 6 to 5 and renumber accordingly.

The Amendment gets rid of the \$20,000,000 allocation to create the fund for the grant. The intent is that the fund/program will exist unfunded and can be funded as needed with federal or state funds. If adopted, the amendment would change the fiscal note to no impact.

Ben Hansen, Chairperson