

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB73**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday February 01, 2021  
**Committee On:** General Affairs  
**Introducer:** Geist  
**One Liner:** Direct a portion of the proceeds from the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act to county agricultural societies

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

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	6	Senators Wayne, Lowe, Briese, Brewer, Brandt, Arch
<b>Nay:</b>	2	Senators Cavanaugh, J., Groene
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Steven Kruger

Rick Vest

Amy Dickerson

Bud Synhorst

**Opponents:**

Deb Schorr

Jon Cannon

Eric Gerrard

Lynn Rex

Jack Cheloha

**Neutral:**

Tom Sage

**Representing:**

Executive Director of Nebraska Association of Fair Managers

Chair of the Lancaster Board of County Commissioners

Lancaster County Event Center Manager

President and CEO of LIBA

**Representing:**

Lancaster County Board Member

NACO

City of Lincoln

League of Nebraska Municipalities

City of Omaha

**Representing:**

Nebraska State Racing Commission

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**Submitted Written Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Bruce Rieker

Cherie Conley

Matt Gunderson

**Opponents:**

Leirion Gaylor Baird

Lance Hedquist

**Representing:**

Nebraska Farm Bureau

Secretary/Treasurer of Dakota Thurston County Fair

Douglas County Fair Advisory Board Chair

**Representing:**

Mayor of Lincoln

City Administrator South Sioux City

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Bruce Bohrer

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

**Neutral:**

Eric Thompson

**Representing:**

Professor of Economics UNL

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 73 proposes to change the percentage of tax revenue that is to be distributed by the County Treasurer from the twenty-five percent that is received from the gaming tax revenues. New language created by this bill requires ten percent of the twenty-five percent to be distributed to the county agricultural society in any county in which a licensed racetrack enclosure is located, if there is an agricultural society formed in that county. The remaining fifteen percent of the twenty-five percent is to be distributed per the language passed by the voters in Initiative Law, 2020, No. 431, distributing these funds to the county in which the licensed racetrack enclosure is located; or if the licensed racetrack enclosure is located at least partially within the limits of a city or village, one half of the remaining fifteen percent will be distributed to the county, and one half to the city or village.

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Tom Briese, Chairperson