

LEGISLATIVE BILL 496

Approved by the Governor April 23, 2018

Introduced by Stinner, 48.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Community Development Law; to amend sections 18-2101 and 18-2103, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to define and redefine terms; to provide and change requirements for certain redevelopment projects; and to repeal the original sections.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 18-2101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, is amended to read:

18-2101 Sections 18-2101 to 18-2144 and section 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Community Development Law.

Sec. 2. Section 18-2103, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, is amended to read:

18-2103 For purposes of the Community Development Law, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) An authority means any community redevelopment authority created pursuant to section 18-2102.01 and a city or village which has created a community development agency pursuant to the provisions of section 18-2101.01 and does not include a limited community redevelopment authority;

(2) Limited community redevelopment authority means a community redevelopment authority created pursuant to section 18-2102.01 having only one single specific limited pilot project authorized;

(3) City means any city or incorporated village in the state;

(4) Public body means the state or any municipality, county, township, board, commission, authority, district, or other political subdivision or public body of the state;

(5) Governing body or local governing body means the city council, board of trustees, or other legislative body charged with governing the municipality;

(6) Mayor means the mayor of the city or chairperson of the board of trustees of the village;

(7) Clerk means the clerk of the city or village;

(8) Federal government means the United States of America, or any agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States of America;

(9) Area of operation means and includes the area within the corporate limits of the city and such land outside the city as may come within the purview of sections 18-2123 and 18-2123.01;

(10) Substandard areas means an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether nonresidential or residential in character, which, by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence, inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces, high density of population and overcrowding, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, and crime, (which cannot be remedied through construction of prisons), and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare;

(11) Blighted area means an area, which (a) by reason of the presence of a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures, existence of defective or inadequate street layout, faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness, insanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site or other improvements, diversity of ownership, tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land, defective or unusual conditions of title, improper subdivision or obsolete platting, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the community, retards the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use and (b) in which there is at least one of the following conditions: (i) Unemployment in the designated area is at least one hundred twenty percent of the state or national average; (ii) the average age of the residential or commercial units in the area is at least forty years; (iii) more than half of the platted and subdivided property in an area is unimproved land that has been within the city for forty years and has remained unimproved during that time; (iv) the per capita income of the area is lower than the average per capita income of the city or village in which the area is designated; or (v) the area has had either stable or decreasing population based on the last two decennial censuses. In no event shall a city of the metropolitan, primary, or first class designate more than thirty-five percent of the city as blighted, a city of the second class shall not designate an area larger than fifty percent of the city as blighted, and a village shall not designate an area larger than one hundred percent of the village as blighted. A redevelopment project involving a formerly used defense site as authorized under section 18-2123.01 shall not count towards the percentage limitations

contained in this subdivision;

(12) Redevelopment project means any work or undertaking in one or more community redevelopment areas: (a) To acquire substandard and blighted areas or portions thereof, including lands, structures, or improvements the acquisition of which is necessary or incidental to the proper clearance, development, or redevelopment of such substandard and blighted areas; (b) to clear any such areas by demolition or removal of existing buildings, structures, streets, utilities, or other improvements thereon and to install, construct, or reconstruct streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds, public spaces, public parking facilities, sidewalks or moving sidewalks, convention and civic centers, bus stop shelters, lighting, benches or other similar furniture, trash receptacles, shelters, skywalks and pedestrian and vehicular overpasses and underpasses, and any other necessary public improvements essential to the preparation of sites for uses in accordance with a redevelopment plan; (c) to sell, lease, or otherwise make available land in such areas for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, or other uses, including parking or other facilities functionally related or subordinate to such uses, or for public use or to retain such land for public use, in accordance with a redevelopment plan; and may also include the preparation of the redevelopment plan, the planning, survey, and other work incident to a redevelopment project and the preparation of all plans and arrangements for carrying out a redevelopment project; (d) to dispose of all real and personal property or any interest in such property, or assets, cash, or other funds held or used in connection with residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, or other uses, including parking or other facilities functionally related or subordinate to such uses, or any public use specified in a redevelopment plan or project, except that such disposition shall be at its fair value for uses in accordance with the redevelopment plan; (e) to acquire real property in a community redevelopment area which, under the redevelopment plan, is to be repaired or rehabilitated for dwelling use or related facilities, repair or rehabilitate the structures, and resell the property; ~~and~~ (f) to carry out plans for a program of voluntary or compulsory repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of buildings or other improvements in accordance with the redevelopment plan; and (g) in a rural community or in an extremely blighted area within a municipality that is not a rural community, to carry out construction of workforce housing;

(13) Redevelopment plan means a plan, as it exists from time to time for one or more community redevelopment areas, or for a redevelopment project, which (a) conforms to the general plan for the municipality as a whole and (b) is sufficiently complete to indicate such land acquisition, demolition and removal of structures, redevelopment, improvements, and rehabilitation as may be proposed to be carried out in the community redevelopment area, zoning and planning changes, if any, land uses, maximum densities, and building requirements;

(14) Redeveloper means any person, partnership, or public or private corporation or agency which enters or proposes to enter into a redevelopment contract;

(15) Redevelopment contract means a contract entered into between an authority and a redeveloper for the redevelopment of an area in conformity with a redevelopment plan;

(16) Real property means all lands, including improvements and fixtures thereon, and property of any nature appurtenant thereto, or used in connection therewith, and every estate, interest and right, legal or equitable, therein, including terms for years and liens by way of judgment, mortgage, or otherwise, and the indebtedness secured by such liens;

(17) Bonds means any bonds, including refunding bonds, notes, interim certificates, debentures, or other obligations issued pursuant to the Community Development Law except for bonds issued pursuant to section 18-2142.04;

(18) Obligee means any bondholder, agent, or trustee for any bondholder, or lessor demising to any authority, established pursuant to section 18-2102.01, property used in connection with a redevelopment project, or any assignee or assignees of such lessor's interest or any part thereof, and the federal government when it is a party to any contract with such authority;

(19) Person means any individual, firm, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, company, association, joint-stock association, or body politic and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other similar representative thereof;

(20) Community redevelopment area means a substandard and blighted area which the community redevelopment authority designates as appropriate for a renewal project;

(21) Redevelopment project valuation means the valuation for assessment of the taxable real property in a redevelopment project last certified for the year prior to the effective date of the provision authorized in section 18-2147;

(22) Enhanced employment area means an area not exceeding six hundred acres (a) within a community redevelopment area which is designated by an authority as eligible for the imposition of an occupation tax or (b) not within a community redevelopment area as may be designated under section 18-2142.04;

(23) Employee means a person employed at a business as a result of a redevelopment project;

(24) Employer-provided health benefit means any item paid for by the employer in total or in part that aids in the cost of health care services, including, but not limited to, health insurance, health savings accounts, and employer reimbursement of health care costs;

(25) Equivalent employees means the number of employees computed by (a) dividing the total hours to be paid in a year by (b) the product of forty times the number of weeks in a year;

(26) Business means any private business located in an enhanced employment area;

(27) New investment means the value of improvements to real estate made in an enhanced employment area by a developer or a business;

(28) Number of new employees means the number of equivalent employees that are employed at a business as a result of the redevelopment project during a year that are in excess of the number of equivalent employees during the year immediately prior to the year that a redevelopment plan is adopted; ~~and~~

(29) Occupation tax means a tax imposed under section 18-2142.02; ~~-~~

(30) Extremely blighted area means a substandard and blighted area in which: (a) The average rate of unemployment in the area during the period covered by the most recent federal decennial census is at least two hundred percent of the average rate of unemployment in the state during the same period; and (b) the average poverty rate in the area exceeds twenty percent for the total federal census tract or tracts or federal census block group or block groups in the area;

(31) Rural community means any municipality in a county with a population of fewer than one hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census; and

(32) Workforce housing means:

(a) Housing that meets the needs of today's working families;

(b) Housing that is attractive to new residents considering relocation to a rural community;

(c) Owner-occupied housing units that cost not more than two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars to construct or rental housing units that cost not more than two hundred thousand dollars per unit to construct. For purposes of this subdivision (c), housing unit costs shall be updated annually by the Department of Economic Development based upon the most recent increase or decrease in the Producer Price Index for all commodities, published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(d) Owner-occupied and rental housing units for which the cost to substantially rehabilitate exceeds fifty percent of a unit's assessed value; and

(e) Upper-story housing.

Sec. 3. Prior to approving a redevelopment project to carry out the construction of workforce housing, a governing body shall (1) receive a housing study which is current within twenty-four months, (2) prepare an incentive plan for construction of housing in the municipality targeted to house existing or new workers, (3) hold a public hearing on such incentive plan with notice which complies with the conditions set forth in section 13 of Legislative Bill 874, One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session, 2018, and (4) after the public hearing find that such incentive plan is necessary to prevent the spread of blight and substandard conditions within the municipality, will promote additional safe and suitable housing for individuals and families employed in the municipality, and will not result in the unjust enrichment of any individual or company. A public hearing held under this section shall be separate from any public hearing held under section 18-2115.

Sec. 4. Original sections 18-2101 and 18-2103, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, are repealed.