

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1344

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 06, 2024
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: Wayne
One Liner: Change provisions of the Nebraska Innovation Hub Act

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Blood, Cavanaugh, J., Day, Hardin, Lowe, McKinney
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Hunt
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents: Senator Justin Wayne	Representing: Opening Presenter
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1344 changes provisions of the Nebraska Innovation Hub Act.

Specifically, LB 1344 would add inland port districts as an additional geographic area that is eligible to be designated as an iHub upon the DED Director's approval and opens up the program to application for new iHubs. The bill also requires the director to approve or deny an iHub designation within an unspecified number of days. LB 1344 would also allow for the termination of any iHub designation for any iHub that has not fully implemented the memorandum of understanding in section 81-12,110(4) within three years of its designation. Finally, the bill would end the restriction that prohibits iHubs in Omaha from being within three miles of another, provided that one of the iHubs is an inland port authority designated as an iHub.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1 amends 81-12,108 adds the definition of an inland port authority under the Nebraska Innovation Hub Act. The section also adds an inland port authority created under the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act to the definition of an innovation hub or iHub.

Section 2 amends 81-12,109 to state that the department has authority to end the designation of an iHub if it has not fully implemented the memorandum of understanding within three years of receiving such a designation.



Section 3 amends 81-12,110 by allowing an inland port authority created under the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act to apply to the director to become a designated iHub.

The section also makes the following changes:

- Gives priority to inland port authorities applying for iHub designations in the department's weighted scoring system.
- Removes that the director shall deny or approve the request no later than July 1, 2023 and instead changes it to "within XX days after receiving the application".
- States that subsection 5 does not apply to any inland port authority designated as an iHub.
- States that an iHub shall also submit the annual report of its progress electronically as well to the chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature.

Section 4 amends 81-12,112 by stating that all applicants and their partners must confirm that they have paid all state and local taxes; however, if an applicant is exempt from tax payment then this section does not apply to them.

Section 5 repeals the original sections.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2361 creates the following changes:

(1) The allowed location of an iHub. Instead of being in an inland port district as defined in section 13-3033, iHubs shall now be located "Thirty miles of the largest artificial reservoir constructed in this state for the storage of water" or "Any county having a population of less than one hundred thousand inhabitants"

(2) Has the director determine whether or not to approve the requested iHub designation within 45 days after receiving the application

Terrell McKinney, Chairperson

