

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB449

Hearing Date: Wednesday March 11, 2015
Committee On: Appropriations
Introducer: Mello
One Liner: Change provisions relating to funding for microloans

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 9 Senators Bolz, Haar, Hilkemann, Kintner, Kuehn, Mello, Nordquist, Stinner, Watermeier
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Heath Mello
Jeff Reynolds
Rick Wallace

Representing:
Introducer
REAP - Center for Rural Affairs
Community Development Resources

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 449 makes technical changes regarding microloans under the Small Business Investment program in the Business Innovation Act.

Explanation of amendments:

Committee Amendment 1035 amends LB 449 and incorporates language from LB 450 and LB 569 related to the usage of funds in the Department of Economic Development and the Tourism Commission. None of the following provisions have a General Fund impact.

Sections 1 through 6 and Section 9 of AM 1035 adopt provisions of LB 569, which perform the following functions:

Section 1 includes the Small Business Technology Transfer grant program as an eligible federal grant program for use under the act.

Section 2 adjusts the maximum amount of funds to be awarded under the Phase One/Matching SBIR grant program.

Section 3 adjusts the maximum amount of funds to be awarded per project under the prototyping program and in total.

Section 4 adjusts the maximum amount of funds to be awarded under the innovation in the value-added agriculture

program.

Section 5 adjusts the maximum amount of funds to be awarded under the commercialization program, and eliminates the limitation that assistance be less than 50% of the total project.

Section 6 adjusts the maximum amount of funds to be awarded under the research and development program, and clarifies the 1 to 1 matching requirement.

Section 9 establishes confidentiality of information. AM 1035 amends the Green Copy version of this section to narrow the confidentiality protections to information contained in grant applications.

Under AM 1035, the maximum amount allowed across all five programs would be \$4 million.

Sections 7, 8 and 10 of AM 1035 constitute the provisions of LB 449.

Section 7 contains an amendment to the Green Copy version of LB 449 to adjust percentage requirements for the disbursement of Small Business Investment program funds. A minimum of 50% of those funds would be required to be disbursed in the form of technical assistance. No percentage is set for microloans.

Sections 10 through 15 adopt provisions of LB 450 to perform the following functions:

Section 10 incorporates new sections in to the Nebraska Visitors Development Act.

Section 11 clarifies that the salary of the executive director is set by the commission.

Section 12 amends provisions related to the State Visitors Promotion Cash Fund. This section clarifies that the fund is to be administered by the commission, and includes additional funding sources. Marketing assistance grants to communities and organizations are added as an approved use of the fund.

Section 13 establishes a grant application process for the use of the State Visitors Promotion Cash Fund.

Section 14 creates the Tourism Conference Cash Fund and provides for its usage.

Section 15 establishes legislative intent for tourism-related grant reviews.

Heath Mello, Chairperson