

AMENDMENTS TO LB 1348

(Amendments to E & R amendments, AM7233)

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 "Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
3 the Neighborhood Development Act.

4 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that there is a need to:

5 (1) Stimulate local community development efforts
6 statewide;

7 (2) Build an environment to engage in more effective
8 community development; and

9 (3) Assist community improvement groups which have
10 positive impacts upon the vitality, cohesiveness, and continued
11 viability of both urban and rural communities throughout the state.

12 Sec. 3. The purposes of the Neighborhood Development Act
13 are to:

14 (1) Strengthen neighborhoods and small communities by
15 enhancing their ability to develop community development plans;

16 (2) Coordinate the use of existing programs and funds
17 more efficiently and effectively in support of new programs and
18 initiatives; and

19 (3) Revitalize declining neighborhoods and small
20 communities, maintain the integrity of stable, viable neighborhoods
21 and small communities, and strengthen existing neighborhoods and
22 small communities.

23 Sec. 4. For the purposes of the Neighborhood Development

1 Act:

2 (1) College means the College of Architecture of the
3 University of Nebraska-Lincoln;

4 (2) Community improvement group means a neighborhood
5 association or small community;

6 (3) Fund means the Neighborhood Development Grant Fund;

7 (4) Neighborhood association means an organization that
8 is recognized or endorsed by an incorporated city or village or
9 county as representing all of the residents within a specific,
10 defined geographical area, with the organization representing those
11 residents on a wide range of issues through an open meeting process
12 with elected officers and regularly scheduled meetings; and

13 (5) Small community means an unincorporated village or an
14 incorporated city of the second class or village as defined in
15 sections 17-101 and 17-201.

16 Sec. 5. (1) The Neighborhood Development Grant Fund is
17 created. The fund shall be used by the college to carry out its
18 duties and responsibilities under the Neighborhood Development Act.

19 (2) The State Treasurer shall credit to the fund any
20 money (a) appropriated to the fund by the Legislature, (b) donated
21 as gifts, bequests, grants, or otherwise contributed to the fund
22 from public or private sources, and (c) received pursuant to this
23 section. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
24 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska
25 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

26 (3) The amount in the fund used in any budget year by the
27 college to pay the expenses of the college in the performance of

1 its duties under the act shall not exceed the amount appropriated
2 by the Legislature to the fund in that budget year for that
3 purpose.

4 Sec. 6. (1) The college shall award development grants
5 to qualified community improvement groups through an application
6 process. The college shall develop and provide requesting
7 community improvement groups with an application form. The form
8 shall be simple and concise, using nontechnical language, and the
9 questions on the form shall be factual in nature.

10 (2) To be eligible for a grant, the applying community
11 improvement group shall:

12 (a) Demonstrate that the grant funds will be used for a
13 neighborhood or community project;

14 (b) Demonstrate with regard to the project:

15 (i) That it will provide a public benefit;

16 (ii) That it will provide a particular benefit to the
17 applicant's neighborhood or small community;

18 (iii) That it will be completed within one year after the
19 receipt of the grant;

20 (iv) That neighborhood or small community residents were
21 involved in the identification and planning for the project and
22 will be involved in the project's execution; and

23 (v) That the project does not duplicate an existing
24 public program;

25 (c) Document verifiable goals for the project for which
26 grant funds are requested; and

27 (d) Document that the applicant will bring to the project

1 a match equivalent in money or in-kind services equal to the
2 following scale:

3 (i) For a grant of five thousand dollars or less, a match
4 equivalent to twenty-five percent of the amount of the grant
5 sought;

6 (ii) For a grant of seven thousand five hundred dollars
7 or less but more than five thousand dollars, a match equivalent to
8 not less than twenty-six percent and no more than forty-nine
9 percent of the amount of the grant sought; and

10 (iii) For a grant of ten thousand dollars or less but
11 more than seven thousand five hundred dollars, a match equivalent
12 to fifty percent or more of the amount of the grant sought.

13 (3) A recipient of a grant shall not use the grant funds
14 for administrative support of the recipient, for the planning of a
15 project, or for the administrative costs relating to the planning
16 of a project. Not more than five percent of the grant funds
17 received shall be expended by the recipient of the grant for
18 expenses incurred in administering the grant. A recipient of a
19 grant may not receive more than one grant for the same project, and
20 a project may not receive more than one grant in any one year. No
21 grant to a single community improvement group shall exceed ten
22 thousand dollars.

23 Sec. 7. In assessing the applications received from
24 community improvement groups, the college shall weigh the relative
25 merits of the applications, giving consideration to the following
26 factors:

27 (1) The amount of the match;

1 (2) The level of involvement by persons living in the
2 community;

3 (3) The community needs reflected in the application;

4 (4) The likelihood of the successful completion of the
5 project;

6 (5) The innovative character of the proposed solution;
7 and

8 (6) The efficiency of the proposed allocation of state,
9 local, public, and private resources in solving the local community
10 need.

11 Sec. 8. Upon completion of a project for which a grant
12 has been received or within one year from the date of the receipt
13 of a grant, whichever comes first, the recipient community
14 improvement group shall provide the college with an evaluation
15 reporting the results of the project.

16 Sec. 9. The college shall submit an annual report to the
17 Governor and the Legislature on or before January 1 of each year
18 listing the recipients and amounts of grants made pursuant to the
19 Neighborhood Development Act in the previous year, the impact of
20 the grants, and an evaluation of each project's performance based
21 on the documented reports of the recipient community improvement
22 groups."

23 2. Renumber the remaining sections and correct internal
24 references accordingly.