



**Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 578**

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**Hearing Date:** February 13, 2003  
**Committee On:** Revenue

**Introducer(s):** (Landis)

**Title:** Change application approval procedures under the Employment and Investment Growth Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File  
Advanced to General File with Amendments  
 Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Bourne, Connealy, Hartnett, Janssen, Landis, Raikes and Redfield
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Baker

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**Proponents:**

Senator David Landis  
Craig Groat  
Mark Vasina  
John K. Hansen  
Steve Virgil

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Himself  
Nebraskans for Peace  
Nebraska Farmers Union  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

**Opponents:**

Nicholas Niemann

**Representing:**

Nebraska, Omaha and Lincoln Chambers of Commerce, Nebraska Bankers, NEDA

**Neutral:**

D'Anne Welch

**Representing:**

Herself

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

LB 578 would have amended section 77-4104 to change the approval process for projects seeking benefits under the Employment and Investment Growth Act. Under LB 578, once the Tax Commissioner was satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements for benefits under the Act, the application was forwarded to a newly-created Employment and Investment Growth

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Review Board. Currently, the Tax Commissioner would sign an agreement with the applicant at this stage.

Under the bill, the Review Board could only have approved the application for benefits if it was satisfied that project would not occur absent the benefits provided by the Act. If the Board so found, the taxpayer and the Tax Commissioner were to enter into a 775 agreement. The board was to have three members; 1) the Governor or his or her designee, 2) a professor of economics from a doctoral economics program in the state, and 3) a member from the private sector qualified in finance, economics, economic development or a related field. All were appointed by the Governor.

The changes made by this bill were to be operative for all applications filed on or after January 1, 2004.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator David Landis, Chairperson**