



**Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 99**

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**Hearing Date:** January 29, 2003

**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

**Introducer(s):** (Hartnett, Aguilar)

**Title:** Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Visitors Development Act

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

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Aguilar, Brown, Burling, Combs, McDonald, Schimek, Smith
0	No	
1	Present, not voting	Senator Vrtiska
0	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Senator D. Paul Hartnett  
Beth Bazyn Ferrell  
Lora Young

Paul O'Hara  
Renee Seifert  
Fred Uhe  
Walt Radcliffe

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Association of County Officials  
Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Nebraska Travel Association  
Fonner Park  
Nebraska Travel Association  
Sarpy County  
State Fair

**Opponents:**

Nicky Smith

**Representing:**

Nebraska Hotel & Motel Association

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 99 amends the Nebraska Visitors Development Act in several ways.

**Section 1:** Eliminates the requirement that only a county with a population of 300,000 inhabitants or more can establish a County Visitors Improvement Fund. With this bill, any county would be able to establish such a fund.

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**Section 2:** Allows proceeds of the County Visitors Improvement Fund to be used to facilitate physical access to visitor attractions and facilities. It also adds language which prohibits the proceeds to be used for gaming activities regulated under Chapter 9 unless the proceeds are used to improve an adjacent facility with a nonwagering or nongaming purpose.

**Section 3:** Allows grants made from the County Visitors Improvement Fund to be used for facilitating physical access to any existing visitor attraction, including accessibility improvements. The grants are not available for gaming activities regulated under Chapter 9, unless the proceeds are used to improve an adjacent facility with a nonwagering or nongaming purpose.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendment eliminates language which would have allowed proceeds of the County Visitors Improvement Fund to be used to facilitate physical access to visitor attractions and facilities.

The committee amendment also amends portions of LB 330 into LB 99. The amendment requires a five member county visitors committee to have at least one but not more than two members in the hotel industry. If the committee has seven members, at least two but not more than three members shall be in the hotel industry. County visitors committees shall consist of either five or seven members.

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**Senator DiAnna R. Schimek, Chairperson**