

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 523

Introduced by Walz, 15.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to telecommunications; to amend section
- 2 86-580, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions
- 3 relating to financial assistance from the Nebraska Internet
- 4 Enhancement Fund; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the
- 5 original section.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 86-580, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 86-580 (1) The Public Service Commission shall establish an
4 application process through which any county or municipality in the state
5 may apply for financial assistance from the Nebraska Internet Enhancement
6 Fund. The process shall allow the county or municipality to obtain a
7 service provider for broadband or other advanced telecommunications
8 services in an exchange or other area defined by the county or
9 municipality where such telecommunications services are to be delivered
10 at rates of service agreed upon between the service provider and county
11 or municipality. The application shall state the projected cost, identify
12 the service provider, describe the process for selection of the service
13 provider, list terms and considerations of any agreement between the
14 applicant and the service provider, and include other information as
15 required by the commission.

16 (2) The commission shall not provide assistance unless ~~(a)~~ the
17 service provider is an eligible service provider of telecommunications,
18 video, Internet, or other related services as determined by rule and
19 regulation of the commission ~~and (b) the applicant can provide matching~~
20 ~~funds of at least twenty-five percent of the total projected cost.~~

21 (3) The commission shall establish a system to prioritize
22 applications. Highest priority shall be given to applicants based on
23 high-cost factors, including population scarcity and location remoteness.
24 Other factors, including financial need, may be considered by the
25 commission as deemed necessary.

26 (4) Funds for financial assistance to counties and municipalities
27 may be distributed by the commission on and after January 1, 2002. ~~Funds~~
28 ~~committed for future use are deemed to be used in the year committed.~~

29 Sec. 2. Original section 86-580, Reissue Revised Statutes of
30 Nebraska, is repealed.