



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 224

Chairperson: Tom Carlson
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: March 3, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 224 is intended to clarify when the transition of the "host city" for purposes of assuming responsibility for matching the portion of state lottery revenues dedicated to the State Fair pursuant to Article III, Section 28 of the state constitution occurs. The Constitution is silent on this question and necessity for clarification arises with the implementation of LB 1116 enacted in the 2008 legislative session which states legislative intent that the State Fair be held in Grand Island beginning with the 2010 State Fair.

The bill essentially establishes that the transition occurs on a calendar year basis, i.e. that the assumption of host city responsibilities transitions to the new host community beginning in the calendar year in which the fair is to be relocated to that community. LB 224 specifically directs that quarterly notification of lottery revenues collected be made to the most populous city of the county at the conclusion of each quarter of the calendar year in which the fair is held in that county. The notification would be made to the most populous city of the county in which the fair is scheduled to be held if different from the most recently held state fair beginning with the notification of the lottery revenues collected in the first calendar quarter of that year. In effect, the January 1, 2010 notification of lottery revenues collected in the 4th quarter of 2009 would be made to the current host city, and beginning with the April 1, 2010 notification of lottery revenues collected in the first quarter of 2010, notification would be made to the new host city. LB 224 further clarifies that the appointment of the new host city representative provided for by LB 1116 also occurs on a calendar year basis to correspond with the host city lottery match clarification.

Finally, the bill conforms the pari-mutuel tax to the implementation of LB 1116. The bill removes a credit against the pari-mutuel tax imposed upon racing meets conducted by the State Fair Board for racing conducted upon State Fair Park provided the retained revenues are utilized for maintenance of State Fair Park. Removal of this credit is made effective January 1, 2010. The purposes of this provision of existing law to support state fair facilities are replicated by the bill by the creation of a State Fair Facility Maintenance Assistance Fund. This fund is to be administered by DED and expended as grants in aid for maintenance of a facility serving as host of the state fair.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Tom Carlson