

LEGISLATIVE BILL 684

Approved by the Governor May 24, 2011

Introduced by Schilz, 47.

FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to amend section 81-1201.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to an advisory committee for travel and tourism; to authorize the Department of Economic Development to hire a consultant as prescribed; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 81-1201.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1201.13 (1) The Travel and Tourism Division shall develop a program to provide promotional services and technical assistance to local governments and industry members and to ensure the protection and development of Nebraska's attraction resources.

(2) (a) The department shall have an advisory committee to provide regular consultation to the Travel and Tourism Division, which committee shall be named the Travel and Tourism Division Advisory Committee. Such advisory committee shall include, at a minimum, one representative from the Game and Parks Commission, one representative from the Nebraska Travel Association, one representative from the Nebraska Hotel and Motel Association, one representative from a tourism attraction that records at least two thousand out-of-state visitors per year, and one representative from the Nebraska Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

(b) The Travel and Tourism Division Advisory Committee shall develop a statewide strategic plan to cultivate and promote tourism in Nebraska. The advisory committee shall adopt policy criteria to be used in the development of the plan. The plan shall include:

(i) A review of the existing and potential sources of funding for tourism at the state and local levels;

(ii) A comprehensive inventory of local tourism boards, the structure of such boards, and their funding;

(iii) Criteria for local tourism boards in terms of appointments to such boards and for awarding grants by such boards at the local level to ensure local resources are used to achieve the greatest return;

(iv) An examination of other states' funding models for tourism;

(v) Marketing strategies for promoting tourism;

(vi) A proposal for creating new or expanding existing tourism capacity, which may include encouraging regional cooperation, collaboration, or privatization; and

(vii) Recommended legislation or funding requirements.

(c) The department may hire a consultant to assist the Travel and Tourism Division Advisory Committee in developing the statewide strategic plan. The department may accept, in trust, any gifts, devises, and bequests to be held and administered by the department for the purposes of hiring a consultant. The advisory committee shall prepare and present the statewide strategic plan to the Legislature by September 1, 2012.

(3) All advertising contracts awarded by the department concerning travel and tourism shall be based on competitive bids. Contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, taking into consideration the best interests of the state, the quality of performance of the services rendered, the conformity with specifications, the purposes for which required, and the time of completion, and with the consultation of the Travel and Tourism Division Advisory Committee. In determining the lowest responsible bidder, in addition to price, the following elements shall be given consideration: ~~(1)~~ (a) The ability, capacity, creativity, and skill of the bidder to perform the contract required; ~~(2)~~ (b) the character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder; ~~(3)~~ (c) whether the bidder can perform the contract within the time specified; ~~(4)~~ (d) the quality of performance of previous contracts; ~~(5)~~ (e) the previous and existing compliance by the bidder with laws relating to the contract; and ~~(6)~~ (f) such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the decision to award the contract. The department shall advertise for bids for the awarding of contracts concerning travel and tourism pursuant to sections 73-101 to 73-105. At least thirty working days shall elapse between the time formal bids are advertised for and the time of their opening. Contracts shall be awarded within sixty working days after the bidding has been closed. Each person submitting a bid shall, by certified mail, be notified as to whom the contract

was awarded.

Sec. 2. Original section 81-1201.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.