

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1071

Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2016

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

LB 1071 would create the Solar Energy Economic Development Act. It would authorize community solar programs and provide incentives for solar development. There is a great deal of interest in solar energy in Nebraska. However, very little solar development has occurred to date.

LB 1071 is intended to increase solar development by providing a grant process to be administered by the Nebraska Energy Office. Utilities that have established solar incentive programs, local governments, businesses, tax exempt organizations and individuals would be eligible for grants for solar projects up to two megawatts nameplate capacity.

LB 1071 would authorize community solar programs of up to two megawatts nameplate capacity that allow subscribers to receive bill credits in proportion to their interest in a solar development project that sells the electricity to an electric utility. Such programs may be owned and operated by for-profit entities in order to monetize the tax credits.

No grant may exceed 15 % of the amount of the project or total more than \$150,000. The Energy Office would have authority to create rules to administer the Solar Energy Economic Development Act. The total amount appropriated to the Energy Office for the program is \$4 million.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ken Haar