

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1025

Introduced by Wayne, 13; McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 13, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the Department of Economic Development; and to declare an
- 3 emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) The COVID-19 public health emergency has caused widespread
3 economic, social, and public health-related turmoil that deepened
4 existing disparities;

5 (b) The social and economic challenges caused and exacerbated by the
6 COVID-19 public health emergency include high unemployment, wage losses,
7 increased homelessness, and food insecurity;

8 (c) The impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and related
9 challenges were disproportionately felt in low-income and minority
10 communities, such as North Omaha;

11 (d) The social and economic challenges in North Omaha have persisted
12 for multiple generations, partially fueled by past racial segregation and
13 the historical practice known as redlining;

14 (e) Funding under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
15 presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to respond to the challenges
16 facing North Omaha that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public
17 health emergency; and

18 (f) Federal guidance issued by the United States Department of the
19 Treasury has identified qualified census tracts as areas in which certain
20 activities and investments will be deemed presumptively eligible for the
21 use of funds under the federal act.

22 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$450,000,000 from Federal Funds for
23 FY2022-23 to the Department of Economic Development for the purposes
24 described in subsection (3) of this section. The Federal Funds
25 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of
26 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
27 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,
28 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

29 (3)(a) The Department of Economic Development shall create the North
30 Omaha Recovery Grant Program to provide funding to public and private
31 entities to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health

1 emergency.

2 (b) To be eligible for a grant pursuant to the North Omaha Recovery
3 Grant Program, an applicant shall explain how the grant will relieve the
4 negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency within a
5 qualified census tract located within the boundaries of a city of the
6 metropolitan class.

7 (c) For purposes of this section, qualified census tract means a
8 qualified census tract as defined in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), as
9 such section existed on January 1, 2022.

10 Sec. 2. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
11 passed and approved according to law.