LEGISLATIVE BILL 1224

Introduced by Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The tourism industry in Nebraska has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(b) The COVID-19 public health emergency has resulted in fewer tourism dollars being spent in Nebraska;

(c) The primary reasons for fewer tourism dollars being spent in Nebraska are (i) fewer people traveling for vacation, (ii) the strain on budgets resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, and (iii) uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(d) New and upgraded tourism attractions are needed to bolster the tourism industry and bring people to various destinations across the state; and

(e) Recent price inflation hampers new and upgraded tourism attraction efforts.

(2) There is hereby appropriated $100,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Economic Development for the purposes described in subsection (3) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

(3)(a) The Department of Economic Development shall provide grants for new and upgraded tourism attractions.

(b) Any award of a grant pursuant to this section shall be coordinated and administered by the Department of Economic Development in compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

(c) The recipient of a grant pursuant to this section shall only spend the grant in compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

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