

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB607

Hearing Date: Monday February 13, 2023
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: McDonnell
One Liner: Change provisions relating to grants for the 211 Information and Referral Network

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Bostelman, Brandt, DeBoer, DeKay, Fredrickson, Geist
Nay:	1	Senator Moser
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Cavanaugh, M.

Testimony:

Proponents:

Mike McDonnell
Shawna Forsberg
Tip O'Neill

Representing:

Introducer
United Way of the Midlands
Nebraska Telecommunications Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Amends section 75-1101- Information and Referral Network; Public Service Commission; award grant; 211 Cash Fund.

The Information and Referral Network is a statewide information network providing information to the public regarding disaster and emergency response and health and human services. The Public Service Commission (PSC) annually provides a grant to supplement the operation of the Network. Since the inception of the Network, the service has been provided by the United Way of the Midlands. The grant administered by the PSC in 2023 was \$955,000. The amount of the grant is prescribed by this section of law. The source of the funding since the Network was created in 2019 has been interest earned on the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund.

LB 607 accomplishes the following:

- 1) Striking language in section 75-1101 that provides the annual 211 grant amount shall be \$955,000; and
 - 2) Enacts a new provision of law providing that the Legislature shall appropriate from the
-

General Fund \$1,275,000 in FY 23-24 and \$1,445,000 to the Public Service Commission to administer grants from the 211 Information and Referral Program.

Suzanne Geist, Chairperson