

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 45

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

Read first time January 05, 2023

Committee: Urban Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to cities and villages; to create the
- 2 Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program; to provide powers and
- 3 duties; to create a fund; to provide for fund transfers; and to
- 4 declare an emergency.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. There is hereby established the Revitalize Rural
2 Nebraska Grant Program. The governing body of a city of the first class,
3 a city of the second class, or a village may apply, on behalf of the city
4 or village, to the Department of Environment and Energy for approval of a
5 dilapidated commercial property demolition grant. The Director of
6 Environment and Energy shall prescribe the form and manner of
7 application.

8 (2) The department shall award the grants annually on a competitive
9 basis beginning in fiscal year 2023-24 subject to available funds. The
10 department shall give priority to applications from cities of the second
11 class and villages. If there are funds remaining at the end of each grant
12 period, the department shall consider applications from cities of the
13 first class. A city or village may apply for more than one grant. The
14 department shall give a preference to new applicants.

15 (3) There shall be no limit on the amount that can be awarded to
16 each applicant within the available funding. It is the intent of the
17 Legislature that if the department does not award all of the available
18 appropriation for grants under the program, the unobligated amount of the
19 appropriation shall not lapse but be reappropriated for the next fiscal
20 year to be awarded during the next grant period.

21 Sec. 2. The Department of Environment and Energy shall award a
22 grant to a city or village under the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant
23 Program based on a completed application which demonstrates that:

24 (1) A dilapidated commercial property within the corporate limits of
25 the city or village is in need of demolition;

26 (2) The city or village owns the property or is completing the
27 process prescribed in section 18-1722;

28 (3) The property has been abandoned or vacant for at least six
29 months prior to application;

30 (4) The property is not listed, or eligible to be listed, on the
31 National Register of Historic Places; and

1 (5) The city or village is able to contribute matching funds,
2 whether in cash or in-kind donations, in the amount of ten percent for a
3 village, fifteen percent for a city of the second class, and twenty
4 percent for a city of the first class.

5 Sec. 3. If a city or village fails to engage in the demolition of
6 the commercial property identified in the application for a grant under
7 the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program within twenty-four months
8 after receiving the grant, the city or village shall return the grant to
9 the Department of Environment and Energy which shall remit the funds to
10 the State Treasurer for credit to the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Fund.

11 Sec. 4. The Revitalize Rural Nebraska Fund is created. The
12 Department of Environment and Energy shall use the fund for the
13 Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program. The fund shall include transfers
14 from the General Fund, money from grants returned under section 3 of this
15 act, and money from private contributions and other sources provided for
16 purposes of the program. The State Treasurer shall annually transfer ten
17 million dollars from the General Fund to the Revitalize Rural Nebraska
18 Fund beginning in fiscal year 2023-24 through fiscal year 2027-28. Any
19 money in the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Fund available for investment
20 shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the
21 Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment
22 Act. Any interest earned on the fund shall be used for the program.

23 Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
24 passed and approved according to law.