

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 607**

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

Read first time January 17, 2023

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Public Service Commission; to amend
- 2 section 75-1101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to
- 3 eliminate a provision relating to an annual grant award amount for
- 4 the 211 Information and Referral Network; to state intent regarding
- 5 appropriations; and to repeal the original section.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 75-1101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
2 2022, is amended to read:

3 75-1101 (1) For purposes of this section, 211 Information and  
4 Referral Network means a statewide information and referral network  
5 providing information to the public regarding disaster and emergency  
6 response and health and human services provided by public and private  
7 entities throughout the state.

8 (2) The Public Service Commission shall award a grant annually to a  
9 211 Information and Referral Network which submits an application and  
10 meets the requirements of this section. ~~Beginning July 1, 2022, the~~  
11 ~~amount of each grant shall be nine hundred fifty-five thousand dollars.~~

12 (3) To be eligible for a grant, the 211 Information and Referral  
13 Network shall update the information and referral services on the network  
14 at least annually, shall geographically index the services to provide  
15 information on a county-by-county basis, and shall be accredited as  
16 meeting the standards for service delivery and quality by the Alliance of  
17 Information and Referral Systems or a similar organization approved by  
18 the commission.

19 (4) The grant may be used to establish a website which includes  
20 links to providers of health and human services, the name, address, and  
21 telephone number of any organization listed on the website, a description  
22 of the type of services provided by the organization, and other  
23 information to educate the public about the health and human services  
24 available on a geographic basis. The grant may also be used to provide  
25 access to the network twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week,  
26 through telephone access and website access.

27 (5) There is hereby created the 211 Cash Fund. The fund shall be  
28 used solely for the purpose of providing grants pursuant to this section  
29 and associated administrative costs. All money received by the Public  
30 Service Commission for such grants shall be remitted to the State  
31 Treasurer for credit to such fund. Any money in the fund available for

1 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to  
2 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds  
3 Investment Act.

4       Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one  
5 million two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars from the General Fund  
6 for fiscal year 2023-24 and one million four hundred forty-five thousand  
7 dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2024-25 to the Public  
8 Service Commission to carry out the 211 Information and Referral Network  
9 grant program.

10       Sec. 3. Original section 75-1101, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
11 Supplement, 2022, is repealed.