

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB953**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 10, 2026  
**Committee On:** Banking, Commerce and Insurance  
**Introducer:** von Gillern  
**One Liner:** Change provisions related to eligible activities for and requirements for assistance from the Site and Building Development Fund

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Jacobson, Bostar, Dungan, Hallstrom, Hardin, Riepe, von Gillern, Wordekemper  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator R. Brad von Gillern  
Marco Floreani  
David Honnens  
  
Amber Bogle  
Matt Shaner  
Maddison Sykes  
Dawn Neujahr  
Jennifer Creager  
Lynn Rex

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
City of Omaha  
Nebraska Section of the Professional Golfers Association of America and Nebraska Golf Alliance  
Nebraska Section Professional Golfers' Association  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Greater Omaha Chamber  
League of Nebraska Municipalities

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 953 proposes amendments to the Site and Building Development Act by expanding the scope of the Site and Building Development Fund to include the construction of major golf facilities and their supporting infrastructure. The first section of the bill limits these specific projects to cities of the metropolitan class, effectively targeting Omaha for this type of urban recreational development. The second section establishes rigorous application requirements, mandating that any proposed facility must provide dedicated programming for both veterans and youth to qualify for



state support. Furthermore, applicants are required to secure formal endorsements from the local mayor as well as national and state accredited golf associations while demonstrating that they have already obtained at least eight percent of the total construction costs from private or alternative sources. To maintain fiscal oversight, the bill also stipulates that no single grant may exceed twenty percent of the total project cost, ensuring that state investment remains a minority portion of the overall development budget.

#### Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1: Amends Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-12,147 which defines the allowable uses for the Site and Building Development Fund. The bill introduces a new category of eligible projects specifically for grants to political subdivisions and accredited golf associations. These grants are intended for the construction of golf facilities and the necessary infrastructure to support them. A key geographical restriction is included in this section, stating that these facilities must be located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class.

Section 2: Amends Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-12,148 to establish the criteria an applicant must meet to secure these funds. For a golf facility project to be approved, the applicant must submit documentation to the Director of Economic Development demonstrating that the facility will provide programming for veterans and youth. Additionally, the applicant is required to provide letters of support from both national and state accredited golf associations, as well as a formal letter of support from the Mayor of the metropolitan class city where the facility is located. The bill also requires proof that the applicant has secured at least eight percent of the total construction cost from private or other sources. Furthermore, the section prevents any single grant issued from exceeding 20% of the total costs of construction.

#### Section 3: Repealer

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Mike Jacobson, Chairperson

