

LEGISLATIVE BILL 385

Approved by the Governor April 2, 2003

Introduced by Janssen, 15; Hartnett, 45; Tyson, 19; Vrtiska, 1

AN ACT relating to the Local Civic, Cultural, and Convention Center Financing Act; to amend sections 13-2705 to 13-2708, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002; to change provisions relating to grant application and approval; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 13-2705, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is amended to read:

13-2705. The department may conditionally approve grants of assistance from the fund to eligible and competitive applicants within the following limits:

(1) The minimum amount allowed to be applied for by a single project is twenty thousand dollars, and A grant request shall be at least twenty thousand dollars but no more than:

(a) For a city of the primary class, one million dollars;

(b) For a municipality with a population of forty thousand but less than one hundred thousand, five hundred thousand dollars;

(c) For a municipality with a population of twenty thousand but less than forty thousand, four hundred thousand dollars;

(d) For a municipality with a population of ten thousand but less than twenty thousand, three hundred thousand dollars;

(e) For a municipality with a population of five thousand but less than ten thousand, two hundred thousand dollars; and

(f) For a municipality with a population of less than five thousand, one hundred thousand dollars;

(2) Assistance from the fund shall not amount to more than fifty percent of the cost of construction, renovation, or expansion; and

(3) A municipality shall not be awarded more than one grant in any five-year period.

Sec. 2. Section 13-2706, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is amended to read:

13-2706. Any municipality, except a city of the metropolitan class, or county may apply for a grant of assistance from the fund. Application shall be made on forms developed by the department. The applicant may receive assistance only once for construction, renovation, or expansion of any one center.

Sec. 3. Section 13-2707, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is amended to read:

13-2707. The department shall evaluate all applications for grants of assistance based on the following criteria:

(1) Attraction impact. Funding decisions by the department shall be based in part on the likelihood of the project attracting new cultural, civic, or convention activity to Nebraska from outside of Nebraska. A project with greater out-of-state draw shall be preferred over a project with less impact;

(2) Socioeconomic impact. The project's potential for long-term positive impacts on the local and regional economy and society;

(3) Financial support. Assistance from the fund shall be matched at least equally from local sources. At least eighty percent of the local match must be in cash. Projects with a higher level of local matching funds shall be preferred as compared to those with a lower level of matching funds; ~~and~~

(4) Readiness. The applicant's fiscal and economic capacity to finance the local share and ability to proceed and implement its plan and operate the convention center; and

(5) Project location. A project shall be located in the municipality that applies for the grant.

Sec. 4. Section 13-2708, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is amended to read:

13-2708. If a grant of assistance is approved by the department, the applicant shall receive conditional approval of the level of assistance. Projects shall receive funding from the fund in the order conditional approval is received and whenever there is sufficient money in the fund to provide the assistance. ~~in full.~~ It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds to support projects which have received conditional approval from the department. A grant of assistance shall be finally approved when funds for the project are appropriated by the Legislature.

Sec. 5. Original sections 13-2705 to 13-2708, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, are repealed.