

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1071

Chairperson: Senator John Stinner

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 08, 2022

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB1071 would appropriate \$30 million from the General Fund to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Fund, which is administered by the Department of Economic Development. The Fund was created in 2017 through the passage of LB518, which created the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act. The Act created a grant program as a means to address housing and workforce shortages in rural areas of the State.

In 2017 the Legislature invested \$7 million in the Fund. At that time, the Fund was oversubscribed and was quickly exhausted while many community economic development organizations were busy raising matching funds. In 2020, due to the overwhelming success of the program and the ongoing need for workforce housing, the Legislature invested an additional \$10 million to provide for a second round of funding. The Fund is now fully subscribed, yet the need for rural workforce housing is ongoing. The appropriation proposed in LB1071 would provide for a third round of funding under the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act and build upon the success of the State's investment in rural workforce housing development.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Matt Williams