

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB709

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 31, 2023
Committee On: Banking, Commerce and Insurance
Introducer: Wishart
One Liner: Create the Convention and Event Center Capital Construction Program

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Aguilar, Ballard, Bostar, Dungan, Jacobson, Kauth
Nay:	1	Senator Slama
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator von Gillern

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Anna Wishart
Jeff Maul

Roma Amundson
Todd Ogden
Kendra Ronnau
Dan Marvin
Bud Synhorst
Phil Erdman
Matt Anderson
Randall Bretz
Cindy Johnson

Representing:

Nebraska Legislature
Lincoln Chamber / Lincoln's Young Professional Group /
Visit Lincoln
Lancaster County Board 7 Commissioners
Downtown Lincoln Association
Lancaster County Ag Society
City of Lincoln
Lincoln Independent Business Association
Iowa - Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association
Branched Oak Observatory
Lincoln Rotary 14
Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 709 would amend section 84-612 and create two new statutes in order to fund and create the Convention and Event Center Capital Construction Program (Program).

Section 1 creates a new section to define terms and tasks the Department of Economic Development (DED) with creating the Program to award grants to applicants to do the following:

Construct a convention center in a qualified census tract located in a city of the primary class. The DED will award up to sixty million dollars of the grant money for this purpose.

Renovate and improve existing event space connected to an agricultural society located in a city of the primary class. The DED will award up to seven million dollars of the grant money for this purpose.

Make capital improvements to any event space located near a recreational area located in a county in which a city of the primary class is located. The DED will award up to four million dollars of the grant money for this purpose.

This section would also allow the DED to adopt and promulgate rules and regulation to carry out Section 1.

Section 2 adds a new section creating the Convention and Event Center Capital Construction Fund, that will be administered by the DED for the purposes of the Program.

Section 3 amends section 84-612 by adding a new subsection that requires the State Treasurer to transfer seventy-one million dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Convention and Event Center Capital Construction Fund for the Program.

Section 4 repeals the original section being amended.

Section 5 is an emergency provision.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 767 would amend LB 709 by increasing the definition of eligible applicants as used in the bill. Specifically, the term applicant is broadened to also include any city of the first class that hosts at least one national or regional livestock show and any county in which a city of the first class is located if such city hosts at least one national or regional livestock show.

The amendment also adds the city of the first class as an included class for the possible receipt of an award up to seven million dollars for renovation and improvements to an existing event space connected to an agricultural society.

Julie Slama, Chairperson