

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB981**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday January 26, 2022  
**Committee On:** Natural Resources  
**Introducer:** Hilkemann  
**One Liner:** Revive the Trail Development Assistance Act and state intent to transfer funds

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 7 Senators Aguilar, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, J., Gragert, Hughes, Moser, Wayne  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Robert Hilkemann  
Julie Harris  
Jason Buss  
Michelle Stryker  
George Cunningham

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Bike Walk Nebraska  
Nebraska Trails Foundation  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Sierra Club, Nebraska Chapter; Nebraska Wildlife Federation

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB981 amends section 37-1001 originally sought to revive the Trail Development Assistance Act (Act) of 1991, found at sections 37-1001 through 37-1008 to provide resources to address maintenance needs of the Cowboy Trail. LB981 originally sought funding of \$15 million dollars to be disbursed by the Game and Parks Commission at a rate of \$750,000 annually

Sec. 1 Revives the Trail Development Assistance Act sections 37-1001 to 37-1008.

Sec. 2 Substitutes the term "transfer" for "appropriation" in section 37-1003, which established the Trail Development Assistance Fund;

States the Legislature's intent to transfer fifteen million dollars from the General Fund to the Trail Development Fund in FY2022-23, directing the Game and Parks Commission to

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use seven hundred fifty thousand dollars annually beginning in FY 2022-23 for ongoing maintenance of designated rail-trails.

Sec. 3 Repeals the original sections 37-1001 and 37-1003.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM1983 amends LB981 to conform to the primary purpose of the bill, which is to provide funding for the ongoing maintenance of the Cowboy Trail. The amendment appropriates \$750,000 from the General Fund for the program in fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 and limits permanent and temporary salaries and per diems from funds appropriated to not exceed \$91,140 for each fiscal year.

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Bruce Bostelman, Chairperson