

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB40

Chairperson: Senator Lou Ann Linehan

Committee: Revenue

Date of Hearing: February 18, 2021

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

1. The goal of LB 40, The Rural Development Projects Act, is to stimulate the challenged economy of rural Nebraska. Sixty six of ninety three Nebraska counties in Nebraska are declining in population.
2. LB 40 provides a much needed incentive to develop industrial rail access business parks in communities of less than 100 thousand in population patterned on the Nebraska Transformation Project Act passed last year in LB 1107 for the benefit of the University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine Campus. Although on a much smaller scale, this could have similar if not a larger proportional economic impact on rural Nebraska.
3. No more than ten million dollars of matching funds shall be paid in aggregate under the Nebraska Rural Projects Act to be funded by fees, appropriations from the legislature, grants, private contributions, repayments of matching funds, and all other sources.
4. All application must be filed with the Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development by Dec. 31, 2022 including a one thousand dollar application fee remitted to the State Treasurer.
5. The applicant with the earlier date of application shall receive the full amount of matching funds to which he or she is entitled before any matching funds may be paid to the applicant with the later date of application.
6. The approved applicant has up to a five year transformational period from the date of application to raise funds that qualify to be matched by the state.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene