

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1255

Introduced by Bostar, 29; Flood, 19.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the University of Nebraska.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
2 Final Rule by the United States Department of the Treasury for the
3 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds stated the following:

4 (a) The conditions under which an infrastructure project will be
5 considered to be a necessary investment;

6 (b) What is considered to be a water, sewer, or broadband
7 infrastructure project;

8 (c) That a necessary investment in infrastructure is one that is (i)
9 responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate
10 minimum level of service, which may include a reasonable projection of
11 increased need, whether due to population growth or otherwise and (ii) a
12 cost-effective means for meeting that need, taking into account available
13 alternatives;

14 (d) In the case of investments in infrastructure that supply
15 drinking water in order to meet projected population growth, given that
16 drinking water is a resource that is subject to depletion the project
17 must be projected to be sustainable over its estimated useful life;

18 (e) The development and implementation of a conservation and
19 management plan under section 320 of the federal Clean Water Act is an
20 eligible use of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal
21 Recovery Funds; and

22 (f) The United States Department of the Treasury encourages
23 recipients of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery
24 Funds to consider green infrastructure investments and projects to
25 improve resilience to climate change.

26 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$150,000 from Federal Funds for
27 FY2022-23 to the University of Nebraska, for Program 781, for the
28 purposes described in subsection (3) of this section. The Federal Funds
29 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of
30 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
31 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,

1 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

2 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the:

3 (a) University of Nebraska provide the funding appropriated in this
4 section to the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and
5 Natural Resources to update the Assessing Climate Change report released
6 in 2014;

7 (b) University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural
8 Resources contract with a third-party, science-based organization to
9 develop an independent report that identifies and recommends specific
10 prescriptive measures to be taken by the State of Nebraska relating to
11 the updated Assessing Climate Change report. Such prescriptive measures
12 shall include (i) a conservation and management plan under section 320 of
13 the federal Clean Water Act and (ii) plans for green infrastructure
14 investments and projects to improve resilience to climate change; and

15 (c) University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural
16 Resources electronically deliver both the updated Assessing Climate
17 Change report and independent report providing recommendations by the
18 third-party, science-based organization to the Governor and the
19 Legislature by December 1, 2024.