

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 629**

Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

Read first time January 20, 2021

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to financial assistance related to COVID-19;
- 2 to require a grant program to provide financial assistance to
- 3 certain entities affected by event cancellations; and to declare an
- 4 emergency.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section:

2           (a) COVID-19 means the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2,  
3 the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or a virus  
4 mutating therefrom, and the health conditions or threats associated with  
5 the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or a virus  
6 mutating therefrom;

7           (b) Department means the Department of Revenue; and

8           (c) Eligible recipient means:

9           (i) A municipality that has received a grant of assistance under the  
10 Civic and Community Center Financing Act;

11           (ii) A political subdivision as defined in section 13-3102 that is  
12 receiving state assistance pursuant to the Sports Arena Facility  
13 Financing Assistance Act; and

14           (iii) A county agricultural society organized under the County  
15 Agricultural Society Act.

16           (2) The department shall establish a grant program to provide  
17 financial assistance to eligible recipients that have experienced a  
18 negative financial impact as a result of the cancellation of events due  
19 to COVID-19. The following types of events shall be considered for  
20 purposes of this section:

21           (a) Events that would have been held at an eligible facility as  
22 defined in section 13-2703 for which a grant of assistance was received  
23 under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act;

24           (b) Events that would have been held at an eligible sports arena  
25 facility as defined in section 13-3102 for which state assistance is  
26 being provided pursuant to the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance  
27 Act; and

28           (c) Events that would have been held by a county agricultural  
29 society.

30           (3) An eligible recipient may apply to the department for a grant  
31 under this section on a form prescribed by the department. The department

1 may approve an application, within the limits of available  
2 appropriations, if the eligible recipient qualifies for financial  
3 assistance under this section. The department shall determine the amount  
4 of each grant based on the number of applications received, the available  
5 appropriations, the negative financial impact experienced by the  
6 applicant due to the cancellations described in this section, and such  
7 other criteria as the department may establish.

8       (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate eight million  
9 dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2021-22 to the department  
10 for purposes of carrying out this section.

11       Sec. 2. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
12 passed and approved according to law.