

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 699

Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

Read first time January 05, 2022

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the Department of Economic Development; and to declare an
- 3 emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) The COVID-19 public health emergency fundamentally changed how
3 businesses operate and its prolonged effects highlight the need to
4 stabilize businesses, retain jobs, and help local economies emerge from
5 the pandemic more resilient to future economic disasters; and

6 (b) It is the policy of this state to respond to harmful economic
7 disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency by
8 enhancing innovation and technology infrastructure by (i) increasing
9 research and development investment in Nebraska, (ii) encouraging the
10 creation, expansion, and upskilling of Nebraska's workforce, (iii)
11 increasing wages for Nebraska workers, (iv) boosting innovation and
12 productivity across Nebraska business sectors, and (v) attracting and
13 retaining investment capital in Nebraska.

14 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$100,000,000 from Federal Funds for
15 FY2021-22 to the Department of Economic Development for enhancing
16 innovation and technology infrastructure. The Federal Funds appropriated
17 in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska
18 from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the
19 federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M,
20 Sec. 9901.

21 (3)(a) The Department of Economic Development shall use the funds
22 appropriated in this section to award grants for projects to improve the
23 technology infrastructure in Nebraska.

24 (b) The Department of Economic Development may create a program to
25 administer the grants awarded pursuant to this section.

26 (c) Any program created by the Department of Economic Development
27 pursuant to this section shall be coordinated and administered in
28 compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

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