

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 783

Introduced by Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Murman, 38; Williams, 36.

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 beef processing industry in Nebraska has been adversely
3 impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency;

4 (b) Supply chain disruptions and a bottleneck restriction in getting
5 beef from the feedlot to consumers caused price deflation in livestock
6 markets and price inflation for consumers;

7 (c) The primary reasons for the supply chain disruptions and
8 bottleneck restriction are due to (i) insufficient slaughter and packing
9 plants, (ii) the distance between such plants and beef producers, (iii)
10 mitigation efforts related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and
11 (iv) lack of efficiency at slaughter and packing plants due to employee
12 illness related to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

13 (d) New slaughter and packing plants with local producers as
14 stakeholders are needed to increase beef industry production; and

15 (e) Recent price inflation for construction costs of about twenty
16 percent hampers new slaughter and packing plant construction efforts.

17 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$75,000,000 from Federal Funds for
18 FY2022-23 to the Department of Economic Development for the purposes
19 described in subsection (3) of this section. The Federal Funds
20 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of
21 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
22 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,
23 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

24 (3)(a) The Department of Economic Development shall provide grants
25 for new construction of beef slaughter and packing plants.

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

29 (c) The recipient of a grant pursuant to this section shall only
30 spend the grant in compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act
31 of 2021.

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