

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 969

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

Read first time January 11, 2022

Committee:

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

1 Section 1. (1) There is hereby appropriated \$10,000,000 from
2 Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Environment and Energy
3 to award grants for electric infrastructure projects. The Federal Funds
4 appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of
5 Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant
6 to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2,
7 Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

8 (2) The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the best
9 interest of the State of Nebraska and its citizens to support and improve
10 the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid in Nebraska,
11 including advanced metering infrastructure technology.

12 (3)(a) For purposes of this subsection:

13 (i) Advanced metering infrastructure means an integrated metering
14 infrastructure of smart meters, communication networks, and data
15 management systems that enable two-way communication between distribution
16 utilities and customers;

17 (ii) Department means the Department of Environment and Energy;

18 (iii) Electric grid means the facilities for transmission and
19 distribution of electricity;

20 (iv) Electric infrastructure grant program means a program
21 administered by the department to provide funding to eligible entities
22 for eligible electric infrastructure projects;

23 (v) Eligible electric infrastructure project means a project in
24 Nebraska by or on behalf of an eligible entity to support or improve the
25 reliability and resiliency of electric transmission and distribution
26 facilities owned, leased, or operated by an eligible entity;

27 (vi) Eligible entity means a public power district, a public power
28 and irrigation district, a municipality, a registered or incorporated
29 group of municipalities, an electric cooperative, an electric membership
30 association, any other governmental entity, or any combination of such
31 entities; and

1 (vii) Reliability and resiliency means the ability to withstand and
2 reduce the magnitude and duration of events that disrupt electric power
3 production and distribution, including the capability to anticipate,
4 adapt to, prevent the effects of, and quickly recover from such an event.

5 (b)(i) Within ninety days after the effective date of this act the
6 department shall establish an electric infrastructure grant program to
7 award grants to eligible entities for eligible electric infrastructure
8 projects. The department shall determine grant amounts based on the
9 following criteria:

10 (A) Improvement to the reliability and resiliency of the electric
11 grid owned or operated by an eligible entity;

12 (B) The cost-benefit analysis of an eligible electric infrastructure
13 project;

14 (C) The benefit to be provided to the largest number of persons and
15 communities;

16 (D) The use of innovative technologies to increase the reliability
17 and resiliency of the electric grid and distribution systems;

18 (E) The location of the eligible electric infrastructure project;
19 and

20 (F) The expected completion date of an eligible electric
21 infrastructure project.

22 (ii) No eligible electric infrastructure project shall receive more
23 than two million dollars in grants under an electric infrastructure grant
24 program created pursuant to this section.

25 (iii) Each grant recipient shall report the completion of an
26 eligible electric infrastructure project that received grant funding
27 pursuant to this section to the department on a form prescribed by the
28 department.

29 (iv) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
30 to carry out the purposes of this section.