

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB880

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 24, 2024
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Hughes
One Liner: Change requirements relating to the Land Acquisition and Source Water Loan Fund

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Bostelman, Brandt, Cavanaugh, J., Fredrickson, Hughes,
Jacobson, Moser, Slama

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Matt Howe for Sen. Jana Hughes
Jim Macy

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB880 is a clean up bill. The bill amends sections 70-5318 and 71-5322 concerning the process of loaning and granting funds, and other activities under the Land Acquisition and Source Water Loan Fund. The program used to be operated by the Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) but is now administered by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE).

LB880 strikes two references to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act. With the passage of LB 148 in 2021, the administration of environmental safety programs such as the public water system supervision program previously delegated to the State of Nebraska by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, switched from administration oversight by DHHS to oversight by NDEE. As administration of the program is now assigned to NDEE, the references to DHHS are removed by LB880.

According to the NDEE website, the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) program provides low interest loans and loan forgiveness to owners of public drinking



water systems. The loan principal repayments go into new loans and interest earned on the Fund are used 1) to pay off the state match bond issues and 2) to make new loans. The Land Acquisition Fund is held as a trust to be used in conformity with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act. Oversight of the fund is with the Director of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE).

The current law enables or requires that certain activities from the fund include consultation or collaboration involving both the Director of NDEE and the Director of Public Health of the Division of Public Health (DHHS). Consistent with the change in oversight responsibilities, LB880 deletes reference to DHHS.

Bruce Bostelman, Chairperson

