



# Urban Affairs Committee Priority Bill LB 873 & AM 2065

The Urban Affairs Committee has prioritized LB 873 and filed AM 2065. Included in AM 2065 are two bills with no fiscal cost to Nebraska, but of great importance to increasing access to quality early childhood care and education. AM 2065 to LB 873 includes amended versions of LB 880 and LB 768, both of which advanced out of committee unanimously.

## LB 880

*- Provide for an Early Childhood Element in a Comprehensive Plan Developed by a City -*

*Introduced by Senator Matt Hansen*

### LB880

LB880 would require cities to include an early childhood element in comprehensive plans before January 1, 2022, either when they create a new plan or when they update an existing plan. A comprehensive plan is a long-range community plan that focuses on factors and functions that affect the growth and development of a community. The plan outlines future improvements and development to change a community into a desired future state.

#### ***The early childhood element would have three requirements:***

- 1) an evaluation of the supply of quality licensed early childhood education programs for children under six years of age,
- 2) an evaluation of the availability and utilization of licensed child care capacity and quality for children under six, and
- 3) promotion of early childhood health and education measures that benefit the community.

#### ***To evaluate the availability, utilization and quality of licensed early childhood education programs for children under age six the city may:***

- (a) acquire publicly available data and information from the State Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the United States Bureau of the Census, other federal, state, or local agencies, or any other organization,
- (b) use a definition of quality found in existing programs, including, but not limited to, the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act, the Sixpence Early Learning Fund, the federal Head Start program or Early Head Start program, or other early childhood education programs at a school district, and
- (c) determine whether an early childhood education program is accredited by a national association recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services.

# LB 768

## - Redefine Economic Development Program to Include Early Childhood Infrastructure Development -

Introduced by Senator Dan Quick and Co-Sponsored by Senators Crawford, Hansen, Kolowski, McCollister, Stinner, Wayne & Williams

### History of the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act

In 1991, the Legislature passed the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840), which authorizes incorporated cities and villages to collect and appropriate local tax dollars for economic development purposes. Sixty-eight Nebraska communities have made use of this economic incentive.

### Communities Currently Able to Offer Loans, Grants and Other Activities with LB840 Funds'

Ainsworth	Burwell	Falls City	Lexington	Oshkosh	Stromsburg
Albion	Cambridge	Fremont	Louisville	Plainview	Superior
Alliance	Central City	Fullerton	Loup City	Plattsmouth	Sutton
Arapahoe	Chadron	Geneva	McCook	Ravenna	Tecumseh
Arnold	Clearwater	Gering	Milford	Sargent	Valentine
Atkinson	Columbus	Gothenberg	Mitchell	Scribner	Wakefield
Bayard	Cozad	Grand Island	Nebraska City	Schuyler	Wayne
Beatrice	Crete	Hartington	Neligh	Scottsbluff	West Point
Beemer	Curtis	Imperial	North Platte	Sidney	
Bellevue	Doniphan	Kimball	O'Neill	South Sioux City	
Blair	Fairbury	La Vista	Ord	St. Paul	

### Eligible Activities

Communities may use these funds for different eligible activities, including but not limited to: direct loans or grants to qualifying businesses for fixed assets or working capital or both; grants or loans for job training; the purchase of real estate, options for such purchases, and renewals or extensions; and, grants or loans to businesses to provide relocation incentives for new residents.

### LB768

LB768 would expand the use of these funds to include early childhood infrastructure development of quality early childhood programs to address early childhood education shortages that impair the ability of a city or village to attract new businesses or that impair the ability of existing businesses to recruit new employees. Quality means meeting or exceeding a step three quality rating based on quality rating criteria under the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act.<sup>2</sup> The intent of LB768 is to allow local control to direct LB840 funds in new and innovative ways to help ensure the future well-being of children and communities.

1. Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Local Option Municipal Economic Development (LB840), <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/lb-840/#1491492205223-bfc069b3-f4e1>

2. Step Up to Quality Child Care Act, LB507 (2013) <https://nebraskalegisature.gov/FloorDocs/103/PDF/Slip/LB507.pdf>