

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 492

Introduced by Mello, 5.

Read first time January 18, 2011

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to state findings; to create
2 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy
3 Efficiency Retrofit Jobs Project; to change the use of
4 previously appropriated funds to provide for grants; to
5 provide duties for the State Energy Office; and to state
6 intent relating to use of American Recovery and
7 Reinvestment Act funds.

8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) The State Energy Office received \$30,910,000 in State
3 Energy Program funds as a result of the federal American Recovery and
4 Reinvestment Act of 2009;

5 (2) Of those funds, \$11,000,000 was allocated to the
6 State Energy Office's Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Program; and

7 (3) As of August 1, 2010, the total dollar amount of
8 loans issued and pending through the Dollar and Energy Saving Loan
9 Program was less than twelve and one-half percent of the total
10 allocation through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
11 of 2009.

12 Sec. 2. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy
13 Efficiency Retrofit Jobs Project is created. The State Energy Office
14 shall administer the project which shall provide grants to qualified
15 applicants for projects which meet the criteria in section 3 of this
16 act.

17 Sec. 3. (1) Applications for grants under the American
18 Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency Retrofit Jobs Project
19 shall be made on forms provided by the State Energy Office. The
20 application shall demonstrate how the grant proposal will: (a)
21 Increase energy efficiency with retrofitted products and structures;
22 (b) demonstrate energy efficiency technologies in retrofitted
23 products and structures; (c) deploy cutting-edge energy efficiency
24 technologies in retrofitted products and structures; (d) leverage
25 funds for energy efficiency projects in retrofitted products and

1 structures; and (e) create and retain jobs.

2 (2) The Director of the State Energy Office shall review
3 the applications and award grants to the successful applicants.
4 Grants may range from a minimum of five thousand dollars to a maximum
5 of five million dollars. A grant recipient shall provide matching
6 funds equal to fifteen percent of the amount of the grant. The
7 director may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations relating to
8 applications and awarding of grants under this section.

9 Sec. 4. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
10 State Energy Office use five million dollars of unspent funds
11 allocated to the Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Program from the
12 federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Energy
13 Program to provide funding for grants awarded under section 3 of this
14 act.