

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -
2008**

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB1116

Hearing Date: February 26, 2008

Committee On: Agriculture

Introducer(s): (Erdman)

Title: Change state fair and Nebraska State Fair board provisions

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Placed on General File with Amendments

Vote Results:

7 Yes	Senators Chambers, Dierks, Dubas, Erdman, McDonald, Preister, Wallman
1 No	Senators Karpisek
0 Absent	
0 Present, not voting	

Proponents:

Senator Erdman
Jerry Fitzgerald
Donald Dunn
Jay Vavricek
Cindy Johnson
Tam Allan
Ken Gnadt
Ken Killion
Walt Bleich
Keith Olsen
Harry Muhlbach
Dan Reisdorff
John Hansen
Richard Halvorsen

Representing:

Introducer/District 47
Nebraska State Fair Board
Grand Island
Grand Island
Grand Island Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska State Fair Board
Fonner Park
Nebraska Association of Fair Managers
Self
Friends of Innovation Campus
4-H, FFA
Self
Nebraska Farmers Union
Self

Opponents:

Kent Seacrest
Jim McClurg
James Milliken
Harvey Perlman
Lynn Darling
Bruce Kuster
Andre Mick
Joe Hampton
Len Schropfer
John Wessel

Representing:

2015 Vision
University of Nebraska Board of Regents
University of Nebraska, President
University of Nebraska, Chancellor
Self
Self
Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA)
Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA)
Self
Self

Neutral:

Alan Wood

Representing:

Lancaster County Agricultural Society

Summary of purpose and/or change:

LB 1116 removes a statutory specification for the location of the state fair and provides for the disposition of the State Fairgrounds in the event the property is vacated by the State Fair Board. Specifically, LB 1116 amends §2-101 as follows:

- Removes existing text in subsection (3) that directs the State Fair to be held at its present location as identified
- Adds a new subsection (4) directing the Department of Administrative Services to cause an appraisal of the property upon notification of the State Fair Board of its intention to vacate the existing state fairgrounds upon which the following would occur:
 - Any order of disposition by the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee for reutilization of the property for state purposes shall require the acquiring agency to deposit the greater of the appraised value or \$30 million to the Nebraska State Fair Support and Improvement Cash Fund.
 - If there is no offer of reutilization by a state agency or the University, the property is to be sold and the proceeds deposited to the Nebraska State Fair Support and Improvement Cash Fund.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment (AM 2629) strikes the original provisions and becomes the bill. The amendment states legislative intent and makes various revisions to existing statute and inserts new statutory sections to facilitate the state fair relocating to Fonner Park in Grand Island beginning with the 2010 State Fair. The amendment also inserts the purposes of LB 1115 regarding membership on the State Fair Board.

The committee amendment makes the following specific revisions:

- Continues to amend §2-101 to remove specification in statute that the state fair be held at its existing described location, the Nebraska State Fairgrounds. The amendment adds a new subsection 4 stating legislative intent that the State Fair be held at Fonner Park within the city of Grand Island no later than 2010. The amendment states legislative understandings of the State Fair Board's cooperation and coordination with the Hall County Livestock Improvement Association, the city of Grand Island and others to effect capitol improvements to the site and governance & utilization agreements necessary for conducting a state fair.
- Amends §2-103 to prescribe the following revisions to the makeup of the State Fair Board:

- Redefines the qualification of the four appointed members representing the business community of the state to provide that three of them shall be selected from congressional districts, and one member shall be selected from among the business community of the host community.
 - Existing appointed members who continue to be qualified to serve under the redefinition of qualification continue to serve out the terms for which they are currently appointed and are eligible for reappointment subject to the limitation on terms.
 - In the event the fair is relocated to a new host community, the term of the member designated to represent the previous host community is vacated and the Governor is to appoint a representative of the host community to fulfill the remainder of the vacated term.
 - Deletes obsolete transitional language that provided for the staggering of terms of members originally selected to the Board.
- Amends subsection (5) by replacing the Chairperson of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as ex-officio, voting members of the Board with the State 4-H Program Administrator and the Executive Director of Nebraska FFA, as an ex-officio non voting members.
- Revises §2-108 to conform expenditures that may be made from the Nebraska State Fair Support and Improvement Cash Fund to the purposes of the bill.
- Amends §84-612 to authorize the transfer of \$5 million from the Cash Reserve Fund to a newly created Nebraska State Fair Relocation Cash Fund. The cash fund is created in what becomes section 5 of the bill for the receipt of transferred funds or other funds that may be received as contribution toward capital facility improvements at an exhibition facility to enable the site to serve as the location of the state fair.
- Inserts a new section 6 directing the transfer of the State Fairgrounds to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on December 31, 2009. This transfer is made contingent upon the certification of contributions of specified amounts having been made by or on behalf of the University of Nebraska, the city of Grand Island and the State Fair Board toward the costs of capital improvements at Fonner Park to accommodate the State Fair, and further provided that the contributions are achieved in intermediate cumulative increments of approximately one-third by specified dates. Section 6 further directs that the University of Nebraska assumes liabilities and responsibilities related to the property and releases the Fair Board and the State of Nebraska.

Senator Philip Erdman, Chairperson