

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB517

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 13, 2013
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Carlson
One Liner: Create the Water Sustainability Project Task Force

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Brasch, Carlson, Dubas, Haar, Johnson, Kolowski, Schilz, Smith
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Carlson
Joe Herrod
Michael Drain
Dave Sands
Jay Rempe
Ryan Heiniger
Bruce Kennedy
Kim Robak
Duane Hovorka
Marian Langan
Wes Sheets
Ken Winston
Roric Paulman
Tom Schwarz
Mike Delka
Lee Orton

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Council of Sportsmen's Clubs
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
Nebraska Land Trust
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Wachiska Audubon Society
Lower Republican Natural Resources District
Nebraska Wildlife Federation
Audubon Nebraska
Nebraska Division, Izaak Walton League
Nebraska Sierra Club
Self
Self
Bostwick Irrigation District Nebraska
Nebraska Water Coalition

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Jim Bendfeldt

Clint Johannes
Ron Yoder
Tim McCoy

Representing:

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts; Central Platte Natural Resources District
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
University of Nebraska-IANR
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 517 would create a task force to identify water resources programs, projects, and activities in need of funding in order to meet the long-term statewide goals of water sustainability, increased water use productivity, and maximizing the

beneficial use of water.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment, AM 603, replaces the original bill. It would create the Water Funding Task Force to ORGANIZE identified water projects and needs and categorize them into funding areas; CREATE a map of the projects identified; and RECOMMEND to the Legislature project priorities, ranking criteria to identify recommendations, and a permanent structure and process through which funding would be provided.

The amendment creates new language that would:

- * create the Water Funding Task Force and assign members;
- * authorize the task force to consult with and seek advisory support from public entities as it completes its tasks;
- * house the task force within the Department of Natural Resources;
- * authorize the task force to hire consultants;
- * require the task force to develop a report to the Legislature with recommendations for the prioritization of water projects in need of funding and that meet the state's water funding goals; project ranking criteria; the annual funding amount needed; and legislation to implement a funding distribution system;
- * require the task force to identify and consult with all water use stakeholder groups in Nebraska;
- * require the task force to create a statewide map that identifies the location of recommended projects in need of funding.

Tom Carlson, Chairperson