

# **One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB185**

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**Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello**

**Committee: Appropriations**

**Date of Hearing: February 01, 2013**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 185 would provide state assistance in the form of a loan to Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) with an integrated management plan as described in subsection (1) of section 2-3226.01 and that have entered into contracts to construct or implement streamflow enhancement projects.

This bill is similar to LB1094 (2008), which loaned \$9 million to NRDs to pay water right holders who agreed to lease and forgo water use to assist in meeting state compliance with the Republican River Compact, because the NRDS were unable to use their bonding authority to pay the water right holders, due to a lawsuit. This loan will be paid back by June 30, 2013.

In the same way LB185 would loan \$40 million to NRDs who have entered into contracts to construct streamflow enhancement projects to assist in state compliance with compacts and agreements who currently cannot proceed with their bonding authority to pay for the project until a current lawsuit is settled.

The \$40 million dollars would be transferred from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Water Contingency Cash Fund, where the Department of Natural Resources would then loan the funds upon request by the NRDs.

LB185 requires that the loan be repaid by June 30, 2018.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Mark Christensen**

