

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 968

Introduced by Johnson, 23.

Read first time January 14, 2016

Committee: Agriculture

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to amend section 2-3815,
- 2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating
- 3 to an agriculture promotion and development program; and to repeal
- 4 the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 2-3815 (1) The Department of Agriculture shall establish an
4 agriculture promotion and development program. The department shall
5 employ a program director and one specialist in research techniques and
6 market development. Both individuals shall report directly to the
7 Director of Agriculture. The department may cooperate and coordinate with
8 producer organizations, state and local governments, and public and
9 private economic development entities to identify opportunities for
10 private sector investment in new livestock, dairy, and agricultural
11 commodities processing facilities or expansion or repurposing of existing
12 processing facilities within the state, to actively recruit such
13 processing investment, and to advise and assist local communities where
14 such investment may be sought or considered. The program director may
15 contract for the services of one or more specialists for such purpose,
16 and may enter into agreements with public or private organizations for
17 the provision and funding of such services.

18 (2) The program shall concentrate on the identification and
19 development of opportunities to enhance profitability in agriculture and
20 to stimulate agriculture-related economic development. Program activities
21 may include, but not be limited to, (a 1) promotion and market
22 development, (b 2) value-added processing of alternative and traditional
23 commodities, (c 3) agricultural diversification, including poultry
24 development and aquaculture, (d 4) agricultural cooperatives, and (e 5)
25 alternative crops.

26 (3) In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the program
27 director may, if he or she deems necessary, convene an advisory committee
28 to assist the program director in developing and implementing program
29 activities. Representatives from the Nebraska Food Processing Center, the
30 Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska, the
31 commodity boards, the Department of Economic Development, the United

1 States Department of Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector
2 may serve on such committee at the request of the program director. If an
3 advisory committee is convened, committee members shall not receive any
4 reimbursement for expenses.

5 (4) The Department of Agriculture shall serve as the facilitator,
6 coordinator, and catalyst for developments through and with the Nebraska
7 Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the
8 University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the Department of Economic
9 Development, other state agencies, the United States Department of
10 Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector. It is the intent of
11 the Legislature that the department foster close working relationships
12 between production agriculture and existing programs for the purposes of
13 agricultural development and promotion. The department may enter into
14 such contracts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this
15 section.

16 (5) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise
17 requires, private sector shall include, but not be limited to,
18 representatives of food industry associations, lenders, or venture
19 capital groups.

20 Sec. 2. Original section 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes of
21 Nebraska, is repealed.