



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Committee Statement
LB 197

Hearing Date: January 16, 2001

Committee On: Agriculture

Introducers: (Dierks)

Title: Change provisions relating to agriculture

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- X Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 6 | Yes | Senators Burling, Chambers, Cunningham, McDonald, Schrock, Vrtiska |
| 0 | No | |
| 1 | Present, not voting | Senator Schimek |
| 1 | Absent | Senator Dierks |
-

Proponents:

Rick Leonard, Research Analyst
 Merlyn Carlson, Director
 Richard Earl
 Senator Pat Engel
 Dr. Del Wilmot

Representing:

Agriculture Committee
 Nebraska Department of Agriculture
 Self
 District #17
 Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Opponents:

Representing:

Representing:

Neutral:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 197 is a Department of Agriculture cleanup bill brought at the request of the Department. The bill changes various provisions of the Nebraska Poultry Disease Control Act (2-3001 et seq.) and the Nebraska Livestock Auction Act (54-1156 et seq.), and outright repeals the Livestock Market Act (54-2000 et seq.).



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The substantive changes include the following:

1. Expands the definition of poultry for purposes of the Nebraska Poultry Disease Control Act to include ostriches, emus, rheas, etc. This is consistent with amendments to the National Poultry Improvement Program adopted by final rule of the USDA in February, 2000. Such species are currently subject to health certification regulations at importation or exchange. Their inclusion would authorize the Dept. to promulgate rules and regulations for producers wishing to participate in the NPIP. Buying, selling and importing of ostriches, emus, etc. would be subject to 2-3004 which requires that poultry originate from flocks or hatcheries participating in an approved disease management program when imported or sold.
2. Grants Dept. of Agriculture specific authority to quarantine and to demand records for purposes of enforcement of the Poultry Disease Control Act.
3. Changes the name of the Livestock Auction Act to the Livestock Auction *Market* Act.
4. Clarifies definitions in the Livestock Auction Act. Definition of “accredited veterinarian” and “designated veterinarian” are added. Current law provides that veterinarians appointed by the state veterinarian to perform health inspections at livestock auction markets be “duly licensed” veterinarians. LB 197 defines appointed veterinarians as “designated veterinarians” and clarifies that such veterinarians are qualified as being “accredited” meaning they are approved by the USDA for purposes of animal health regulations under 9 C.F. R. 161.
5. Increases compensation of the public member of the Livestock Auction Market Board from \$10 / day to \$50/day or \$25/ half day.
6. Removes horses and mules from definition of livestock for purposes of the Livestock Auction Act. Removal of these species from the definition of livestock would remove requirement for health inspection when bought and sold through livestock auction markets.
7. Outright repeals the Livestock Market Act (54-2001 et. seq.) This act applied similar health compliance regulations to livestock markets licensed by the Packers and Stockyards Act. The P&SA licensure applied to terminal livestock markets. There are no such markets remaining in Nebraska.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Merton L. Dierks, Chairperson