



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 835

Chairperson: Bob Kremer
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: January 20, 2004

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

LB 835 amends the Nebraska Apiary Act which was originally adopted in 1929. This legislation would no longer require a beekeeper to register bee colonies or obtain a permit to bring bees into the state.

The legislation is intended to reflect the actual regulatory activities the Department of Agriculture is able to competently carry out in regard to beekeeping in the state. From 1992 to 2002, the number of apiaries registered in the state decreased from 4,272 to 1,854, and the number of bee colonies went from 93,398 to 40,766. During that time the number of apiaries inspected by the Department went from 876 to 177. Because of the reduction in the number of bees and corresponding reduction in resources, it is increasingly difficult to maintain a mandatory inspection program. This legislation would still, however, allow the Department to respond to emergency situations and to issue bee health certificates upon request and payment for related costs

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Bob Kremer