

AMENDMENTS TO LB 517

(Amendments to Final Reading copy)

Introduced by Lathrop

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following
2 new sections:

3 Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

4 (1) Nebraska's water resources are finite and must
5 be wisely managed to ensure their continued availability for
6 beneficial use;

7 (2) The state must invest in: (a) Research and data
8 gathering; (b) further integrating the management of Nebraska's
9 water supplies; (c) improving the state's aging and antiquated
10 water supply infrastructure; (d) building new water supply
11 infrastructure; (e) promoting coordination and collaboration among
12 all water users; and (f) providing information to policymakers to
13 justify a stable source of project funds; and

14 (3) To determine the costs of effective conservation,
15 sustainability, and management of Nebraska's water resources, the
16 state's identified water needs must be compiled and organized and a
17 process must be established in order to identify statewide projects
18 and research recommendations.

19 Sec. 2. (1) The Water Sustainability Committee is created
20 as a special legislative committee. The committee shall comprise
21 the members of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature
22 and shall be chaired by the chairperson of the Natural Resources

1 Committee. The Water Sustainability Committee shall meet as often
2 as necessary to accomplish the objectives established in sections
3 1 to 4 of this act. Meetings shall be held in Lincoln as well as
4 other locations outside Lincoln as determined by the chairperson.

5 (2) The Water Sustainability Committee terminates on
6 December 31, 2013.

7 Sec. 3. The Water Sustainability Committee may consult
8 with other groups in its work, including, but not limited to, the
9 University of Nebraska, the Department of Environmental Quality,
10 the Game and Parks Commission, the United States Army Corps of
11 Engineers, the United States Geological Survey, the United States
12 Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Bureau of Reclamation,
13 and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States
14 Department of Agriculture.

15 Sec. 4. (1) On or before December 31, 2013, the
16 Water Sustainability Committee shall develop and provide a report
17 electronically to the Legislature which contains the following:

18 (a) Recommendations for a strategic plan which
19 prioritizes programs, projects, and activities in need of funding.
20 The recommendations shall give equal consideration to and be
21 classified into the following categories:

22 (i) Research, data, and modeling needed to assist the
23 state in meeting its water management goals;

24 (ii) Rehabilitation or restoration of water supply
25 infrastructure, new water supply infrastructure, or water supply
26 infrastructure maintenance;

27 (iii) Conjunctive management, storage, and integrated

1 management of ground water and surface water; and

2 (iv) Compliance with interstate compacts or agreements or
3 other formal state contracts or agreements;

4 (b) Recommendations for ranking criteria to identify
5 funding priorities based on, but not limited to, the following
6 factors:

7 (i) The extent to which the program, project, or activity
8 provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the
9 beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its
10 residents;

11 (ii) The extent to which the program, project, or
12 activity assists the state in meeting its obligations under
13 interstate compacts or decrees or other formal state contracts
14 or agreements;

15 (iii) The extent to which the program, project, or
16 activity utilizes objectives described in the Annual Report and
17 Plan of Work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and Review
18 Process issued by the Department of Natural Resources;

19 (iv) The extent to which the program, project, or
20 activity has been approved for, but has not received, funding
21 through an established state program;

22 (v) The cost effectiveness of the program, project, or
23 activity relative to achieving the state's water management goals;

24 (vi) The extent to which the program, project, or
25 activity contributes to the state's ability to leverage state
26 dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners
27 to maximize the use of its resources; and

1 (vii) The extent to which the program, project, or
2 activity contributes to multiple water supply management goals,
3 including, but not limited to, flood control, agricultural
4 uses, recreation benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of
5 water resources, and preservation of water resources for future
6 generations;

7 (c) Recommendations for legislation on a permanent
8 structure and process through which the programs, projects, or
9 activities described in this section will be provided with funding,
10 including:

11 (i) A permanent governing board structure and membership;

12 (ii) An application process;

13 (iii) A statewide project distribution mechanism; and

14 (iv) A timeframe for funding allocations based on the
15 list of programs, projects, and activities provided for in this
16 section;

17 (d) Recommendations for the annual funding amount and the
18 start date for distribution of funds; and

19 (e) Recommendations for statutory changes relating to
20 regulatory authorities and to funds and programs administered by,
21 and boards and commissions under the direction of, the department,
22 based on the committee's evaluation of the efficiency of such
23 funds, programs, boards, and commissions.

24 (2) The recommendations of the committee shall be reached
25 by consensus, and the vote of each committee member on each
26 recommendation shall be recorded as In Favor, Opposed, or Not
27 Voting and published in the report.

1 (3) The committee shall make every effort to identify and
2 consult with all water use stakeholder groups in Nebraska on the
3 development of the recommendations required under sections 1 to 4
4 of this act.

5 Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
6 when passed and approved according to law.

7 2. On page 1, strike beginning with line 2 through the
8 first semicolon in line 4 and insert "the Water Sustainability
9 Committee; to provide powers and duties;".