

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB987**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 03, 2016  
**Committee On:** Executive Board  
**Introducer:** Morfeld  
**One Liner:** Create the Bioscience Steering Committee

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	8	Senators Watermeier, Larson, Krist, Hughes, Hadley, Coash, Chambers, Campbell
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Murante
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:** **Representing:**

**Opponents:** **Representing:**

**Neutral:** **Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB987 creates the Bioscience Steering Committee to be made up of the chairperson of the Revenue Committee and his or her designee, the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee and his or her designee, and three other members of the Legislature. The committee is to conduct a study to measure the impact of the bioscience economy in Nebraska and prepare a strategic plan for growing the bioscience economy in Nebraska.

The committee is authorized to hire a nonprofit corporation to provide research, analysis, and recommendations to the committee for the development of the study and strategic plan. The committee shall prepare a statewide strategic plan for the bioscience economy for consideration during the 2017 legislative session.

The Biotechnology Cash Fund is created, with the money to be used to hire the nonprofit corporation and to provide access to resources necessary for developing the statewide plan.

The fund is authorized to receive gifts, bequests, grants, or other contributions from public and private entities.

LB987 also strikes provisions that required the Natural Resources Committee to present a statewide strategic plan for biotechnology in 2011 and to prepare annual updates.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment makes it clear that the Bioscience Steering Committee shall include only one member from the Revenue and one member from the Appropriations Committee, in addition to the three members to be appointed by the Executive Board.

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The committee amendment also clarifies that the Executive Board shall appoint the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Bioscience Steering Committee.

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Bob Krist, Chairperson