

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1061

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 06, 2024
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Ibach
One Liner: Change provisions of the Nebraska Corn Resources Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Brewer, Halloran, Hansen, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Riepe
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Raybould
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Tyler Mahood
Chris Grams
Jay Reiners
Dawn Caldwell

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Self
Renewable Fuels Nebraska, ALL AG LEADERS
WORKING GROUP

Opponents:

John Hansen

Representing:

Nebraska Farmers Union

Neutral:

Kelly Brunkhorst

Representing:

Nebraska Corn Growers Association

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1061 would make a series of revisions to the Nebraska Corn Resources Act. The bill would increase the checkoff assessment collected at the time corn enters commercial channels, would reduce the percent of budgeted expenditures that could be used to influence federal legislation, and eliminates a provision providing for collection of the checkoff from loan proceeds at the time grain is pledged as collateral under a federal farm program loan program. In addition to the primary substantive changes, the bill makes a number of statutory maintenance updates as described below.

Section-by-section description:

Sec 1: Amends§2-3611 which prescribes qualifications to be eligible to serve as a member of the Corn Development,



Utilization and Marketing Board (Corn Board). LB 1061 consolidates under this section existing statutes providing for 8 members appointed by the Governor by membership districts currently specified in §2-3615 and one at-large member appointed by the board currently specified in outright repealed §2-3616.

Sec 2: Amends §2-3615 which defines 8 Corn Board membership districts. LB 1061 authorizes the Board to recommend adjustments to the member districts to the Agriculture Committee.

Sec 3: Amends §2-3619 to increase Board member compensation from \$25 to \$50 per day when performing duties related to service on the board.

Sec 4: Amends §2-3622 with Revisers revisions to utilize gender neutral terms.

Sec 5: Amends §2-3622 which enumerates duties and authorities assigned to the Corn Board.

Subsection (10) directs the Board to prohibit use of checkoff funds to support or oppose a candidate for public office or to influence state legislation but allows up to 25% of annual budgeted expenditures for purposes of influencing federal legislation. LB 1061 reduces the percentage of budget expenditures to influence federal legislation to 10%.

Sec 6: Amends §2-3623 which currently imposes a fee of ½ cent / bushel collected by first purchasers of corn. LB 1061 would increase the fee to 1 cent / bushel beginning Oct. 1, 2024 and to 1 ¼ cent / bushel beginning Oct. 1, 2031.

Sec 7: Amends §2-3629 with a Revisers revision to utilize the named act instead of cited sections.

Sec 8: Amends §2-3631 with a Revisers revision to use consistent terminology to refer to first purchasers

Sec 9: Amends §2-3632 with Revisors revisions to conform this section with current conventions for statutory organization

Secs 10 & 11:: Amends §2-3634 and §2-3635 with Revisers revision to utilize the named act instead of cited sections

Sec 12: Repealer

Sec 13: Outright repeals the following sections:

§2-3616 – provides for at-large members of the Corn Board. This purpose is relocated to §2-3611 by section 1 of the bill

§2-3627 – Obsolete provision authorizing the Board to adjust the checkoff fee

§2-3628. – Obsolete provision for collection of the checkoff fee from proceeds of corn placed under farm program loan and for reimbursement of the assessment if the corn is eventually redeemed and fed to the producer's livestock.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment (AM2426) retains the provision found in section 6 of the bill increasing the checkoff assessment to 1 cent / bushel beginning October 1, 2024 but eliminates the increase to 1.25 cents / bushel beginning Oct. 1, 2031.



