

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB823

Hearing Date: Thursday January 22, 2026
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Wordekemper
One Liner: Change provisions relating to burning permits and the statewide open burning ban

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Brandt, Clouse, Conrad, DeKay, Hughes, Juarez, Moser, Raybould
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dave Wordekemper
Ryan McIntosh

Bill Hiatt
Ed Hubbs

Opponents:

Neutral:

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association,
Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association
Central Platte Natural Resources District
Audubon Great Plains

Representing:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB823, introduced by Senator Wordekemper, amends Sections 81-520.01, 81-520.03, and 81-520.05 relating to applications for land management open burning permits. LB823 requires that an applicant for a burn permit identify whether the intended burning is a prescribed burning or a controlled burning and the approximate number of acres to be involved in the burning.

Land-management burning consists of both controlled burning and prescribed burning. LB823 defines a controlled burning as a non-broadcast burn in which fire is limited to a small area, such as a burning for the purpose of clean up or removal of debris from a debris pile or ditch.

The bill also defines a prescribed burning as a form of controlled burning that includes planning for the application of fire to manage vegetation on grazing pasture, forests, or grassland, or on grassland, for controlling weeds, pests,



insects, and disease or to prevent wildland fires, manage watersheds, benefit wildlife, care for windbreaks, and conduct scientific research.

Tom Brandt, Chairperson

