

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

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**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

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

Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

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

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Dave Wordekemper

Ryan McIntosh

Bill Hiatt

Ed Hubbs

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter

Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association,  
Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association

Central Platte Natural Resources District

Audubon Great Plains

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**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,



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

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Tom Brandt, Chairperson

