

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB827**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday January 28, 2026  
**Committee On:** Natural Resources  
**Introducer:** DeKay  
**One Liner:** Provide for natural resources districts to create soil and water programs

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

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**Vote Results:**

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

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Barry DeKay  
John K Hansen  
Annette Sudbeck

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Farmers Union  
Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District, Nebraska  
Association of Resources Districts

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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

LB 827, introduced by Senator DeKay, amends Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 2-3232 to provide for the creation of or participation in soil and water programs for public education by natural resources districts (NRDs) throughout the state.

Established in 1972, NRDs are local governmental units involved in a variety of projects and programs to conserve and protect the state's natural resources. There are 23 NRDs in Nebraska. The boundaries are organized based on Nebraska's major river basins, which allows for better management practices to be applied to similar topography.

LB827 adds new subsection (3) to section 2-3232 to authorize any of the NRDs in the state to establish or participate in programs to educate agicultural producers and the general public about research practices to improve water quality, water quantity management or soil health practices. Such programs may include conducting demonstration projects and hosting educational events. The districts may enter into agreements with various other public or private or state



or federal entities to establish or participate in such programs.

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Tom Brandt, Chairperson

