

# **One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB1258**

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**Chairperson: Senator Barry DeKay**

**Committee: Agriculture**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The Livestock Protection Act (“the Act”) establishes a uniform, statewide brand registration, inspection, and investigative entity for Nebraska's cattle industry within the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

To ensure brand inspection remains available and fiscally stable, the Act eliminates the Nebraska Brand Committee and transfers its powers to a newly established Division of Brand Registration, Brand Inspection, and Livestock Theft Investigation within the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. It will be cash-funded by inspection fees and brand registration and renewal fees.

To achieve competitive uniformity, the Act eliminates brand inspection areas dividing Nebraska's producers and removes mandatory brand inspection requirements to create a statewide voluntary, fee-based inspection system that operates upon request.

To ensure a seamless transition, the Livestock Protection Act takes effect on January 1, 2027. This modernization effort strengthens and protects Nebraska's rich branding and inspection tradition.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Ben Hansen**