

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB759

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brandt

Committee: Natural Resources

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

LB759 would clean-up language related to LB317 (2025), a bill to merge the Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Natural Resources into the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Such changes would address technical corrections to ensure statutes accurately reflect the new department name and are consistent with the original intent of LB317.

The bill would provide the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment direct responsibility for allocating funds of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund and would eliminate an additional approval step currently carried out by the Environmental Quality Council. The bill would restore a tenth member to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Board that was inadvertently removed by LB317.

The bill would also amend authorities in Chapter 61 related to the Perkins County Canal Project by granting the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment limited statutory authority to enter land for the narrow purpose of conducting surveys and performing related geotechnical work necessary for the project.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tom Brandt