

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1187**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 17, 2026  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** DeKay  
**One Liner:** Change certain fees and surcharges under the Livestock Brand Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators DeKay, Hansen, Holdcroft, Ibach, Kauth, Meyer, F.,  
Raybould, Storm

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Barry DeKay  
Spike Jordan  
Bryce Dibbern  
Al Davis

Craig Uden  
Seth Hanna  
Rusty Kemp  
Brenda Masek  
Trent Loos  
Duane Gangwish

**Opponents:**

Cassie Lapaseotes

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Jordan Ranch  
Nebraska Livestock Markets Association  
Nebraska Farmers Union, Independent Cattlemen of  
Nebraska  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Self, Nebraska Farm Bureau  
Pioneer Cattle Feeders, LLP  
Nebraska Brand Committee  
Self  
Nebraska Brand Committee

**Representing:**

Nebraska Beef Producers

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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

LB 1187 amends §54-1,108 of the Livestock Brand Act which sets the inspection fee authority of the Nebraska Brand Committee. Currently, this section authorizes the brand committee to collect an inspection fee set by the brand committee within a statutory cap of \$1.10 per head and to collect a charge for actual mileage of the inspector to travel to an inspection location. LB 1187 would increase the statutory cap of the per-head inspection fee to \$1.50 and also



replace the actual mileage charge with a uniform travel surcharge fee not to exceed \$30 per inspection location. LB 1187 would also delete expired and obsolete provisions of this section. The bill is introduced with the emergency clause.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM2886) is a white copy amendment which strikes the original provisions and becomes the bill. The amendment would retain the inspection fee changes contained in the original bill, but adds a number of revisions to the Livestock Brand Act as described in the Section-by-Section Summary.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Sec. 1: Amends §54-170 to include new sections 3 through 6 of AM2886 within the Livestock Brand Act.

Sec. 2: Amends §54-171 to include new sections 3 through 6 of AM2886 as sections defining terms utilized by the Livestock Brand Act.

Secs. 3-6: Inserts wholly new sections defining the terms “backgrounding lot”, “brand committee”, “dairy heifer development facility”, and “cattleperson”.

Sec. 7: Amends §54-191 which creates the Nebraska Brand Committee and prescribes its membership. Current law provides that the brand committee consists of 5 voting members whose principle occupation is the raising or feeding of cattle, who are residents of the brand inspection area, who are owners of cattle within the brand inspection area, and who are owners of a livestock brand. At least three of the voting members are cattlepersons and at least one member shall be a cattle feeder. The Secretary of State and the Director of Agriculture are ex-officio, nonvoting members.

AM 2886 terminates the existing brand committee membership provision on August 27, 2026. Beginning August 28, 2026, the brand committee would consist of nine members appointed by the Governor, including five cattlepersons, one from each of five districts, two cattle feeders within the brand area, one purebred breeder, and one owner and operator of a livestock auction market located within the brand area. Current law provides that the members of the brand committee are appointed to staggered terms.

Sec. 8: Amends §54-192 which directs the brand committee to employ an executive director. AM2886 provides that the brand committee shall appoint an executive director subject to approval by the Governor.

Sec. 9: Amends §54-1,102 to increase the statutory cap for the brand registration renewal fee from \$200 to \$400. §54-1,102 also currently provides that the fee for reinstatement of expired brands is the initial brand recording fee and a research fee set by the brand committee pursuant to §54-199, and a penalty of \$5 per month for each month the brand registration has expired. AM2886 changes the fee for reinstatement of expired brands to the renewal fee under this section but retains the \$5 late penalty fee.

Sec. 10: Amends §54-1,108 to increase the statutory cap for the per-head brand inspection fee from the current \$1.10 to \$1.50 and replaces the travel cost component of the inspection fee from an actual mileage charge to a uniform surcharge per inspection location set by the brand committee not to exceed \$30. AM2886 also strikes obsolete text which directed the brand committee to provide a report relating to E-inspection.

Sec. 11: Amends §54-1,110 which prohibits cattle originating within the brand inspection area to be moved to a point outside the brand inspection area without first having been brand inspected. AM2886 would add two exceptions to this requirement. First, cattle moved within the state without a transfer of ownership to the temporary care and



custody of another party would be exempt from inspection provided the cattle are accompanied by a form prescribed by the Brand Committee. Such form is to be kept by the livestock owner and the party having custody and produced upon request. Secondly, AM2886 would exempt dairy cattle moved from a dairy heifer development facility to a qualified dairy.

Sec. 12: Amends §54-1,111 which requires that cattle within the brand inspection area shall be inspected for ownership prior to any transaction transferring ownership except for certain exceptions listed in this section. AM2886 would add a new exemption for cattle purchased or sold by a qualified dairy.

Sec. 13: Amends §54-1,120 which imposes the initial and annual renewal registration fee for registered feedlots. Current law provides for a calculation of the fee so that the fee corresponds with the per-head inspection fee set by the brand committee pursuant to §54-1,108, applied to the feedlot capacity for initial applications for registered feedlot registration and to the average daily inventory for annual registration renewals. AM2886 would change the calculation of the initial and annual renewal fee to 25% of the per-head inspection fee.

AM2886 clarifies records kept by a registered feedlot to include cattle inventory records, purchase records, and certificates of inspection on forms prescribed by the brand committee and that such records shall be made available to the brand committee for purposes of audit, investigations of lost or stolen cattle, and investigations of violations of the Livestock Brand Act. AM2886 further directs that registered feedlots shall be subject to regular audit no more than twice annually, and that additional audits shall be conducted only with the approval of the brand committee and only if the brand committee has reason to believe the feedlot is in violation of the Livestock Brand Act.

Sec. 14: Amends §54-1,122 which currently exempts cattle entering a registered feedlot from brand inspection provided the cattle are moved directly to the feedlot from the point of origin, and are accompanied by brand inspection documentation if originating in a brand inspection area or accompanied by satisfactory evidence of ownership if originating from a location not having brand inspection. AM2886 rewrites this provision to provide that cattle may be moved into a registered feedlot or a backgrounding lot without being subject to inspection provided the cattle a) originate in a state with a brand inspection agency and are accompanied by brand inspection documentation, b) originate in a state or a portion of a state without a brand inspection agency and are accompanied by satisfactory evidence of ownership, or c) originate in a backgrounding lot and the cattle were inspected upon entry to the backgrounding lot. AM2886 further provides that the brand committee may issue guidelines for processes and recordkeeping by backgrounding lots to prevent commingling of cattle during transport to a backgrounding lot or to identify commingled livestock during transport.

Sec. 15: Operative dates

Sec. 16: Repealer

Sec. 17: Repealer

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Barry DeKay, Chairperson

