

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 911**

Introduced by Langemeier, 23.

Read first time January 12, 2010

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Legislature; to amend section 50-501,  
2 Revised Statutes Supplement, 2009; to change provisions  
3 relating to a biotechnology strategic plan; to repeal the  
4 original section; and to declare an emergency.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 50-501, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
2 2009, is amended to read:

3           50-501 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance  
4 of biotechnology and the role that biotechnology plays in  
5 the economic well-being of the State of Nebraska. The Natural  
6 Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be responsible for  
7 the development of a statewide strategic plan for biotechnology in  
8 Nebraska. The plan shall include a baseline review and assessment  
9 of the potential in the biotechnology economy in Nebraska and a  
10 strategic plan for the state's efforts in creating wealth and jobs  
11 in the biotechnology economy. The plan shall address strategies  
12 for developing the biotechnology economy and shall include, but  
13 not be limited to, research, testing, agricultural feedstock and  
14 chemicals, drugs and other pharmaceuticals, medical materials,  
15 medical laboratories, and advanced biofuels. The plan shall  
16 estimate the wealth and the number of jobs that may be generated  
17 from expanding the biotechnology economy.

18           (2) The Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature,  
19 in consultation with the Executive Board of the Legislature,  
20 shall commission a nonprofit corporation to provide research,  
21 analysis, and recommendations to the committee for the development  
22 of the plan. The nonprofit corporation shall be incorporated  
23 pursuant to the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act, shall be  
24 organized exclusively for nonprofit purposes within the meaning  
25 of section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code as defined in

1 section 49-801.01, shall be engaged in activities to facilitate  
2 and promote the growth of life sciences within Nebraska, shall  
3 be dedicated to the development and growth of the biotechnology  
4 economy, and shall agree to remit one hundred thousand dollars to  
5 the State Treasurer for credit to the Biotechnology Development  
6 Cash Fund for the research required by this section. The nonprofit  
7 corporation shall retain such consultation services as required for  
8 assistance in providing research, analysis, and recommendations.  
9 The nonprofit corporation shall present its research, analysis, and  
10 recommendations to the committee by ~~June~~ September 30, 2010.

11 (3) The Natural Resources Committee shall prepare  
12 and present to the Legislature a statewide strategic plan for  
13 biotechnology during the One Hundred Second Legislature, First  
14 Session, for consideration by the Legislature. The committee  
15 shall prepare annual updates to the plan for consideration by the  
16 Legislature.

17 (4) The Biotechnology Development Cash Fund is created.  
18 The Natural Resources Committee shall use money in the fund  
19 to commission the nonprofit corporation and provide access to  
20 resources necessary for developing the plan. The fund may receive  
21 gifts, bequests, grants, or other contributions or donations from  
22 public or private entities. Within five days after the State  
23 Treasurer receives one hundred thousand dollars from the nonprofit  
24 corporation for credit to the fund, the State Treasurer shall  
25 transfer one hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund to

1 the Biotechnology Development Cash Fund. It is the intent of the  
2 Legislature to appropriate two hundred thousand dollars to the  
3 fund for fiscal year 2009-10. Any money in the fund available  
4 for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer  
5 pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska  
6 State Funds Investment Act.

7 (5) For purposes of this section:

8 (a) Biotechnology means the technological application  
9 that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives of  
10 biological systems or living organisms to make or modify products  
11 or processes for specific use; and

12 (b) Biotechnology economy means economic activity derived  
13 from scientific and research activity focused on understanding  
14 mechanisms and processes at the genetic and molecular levels and  
15 the application of the mechanisms and processes to industrial  
16 processes.

17 Sec. 2. Original section 50-501, Revised Statutes  
18 Supplement, 2009, is repealed.

19 Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
20 when passed and approved according to law.