

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB845

Chairperson: Senator Chris Langemeier

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 16, 2012

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

LB 845 amends the Oil Pipeline Reclamation Act to add legislative intent language that reclamation is to be part of the oil pipeline construction process and is intended to:

- restore construction areas as close as reasonably practicable to the condition, contour and vegetation that existed prior to construction
- stabilize disturbed areas
- establish a diverse plant environment of native grasses and forbs to create a safe and stable landscape
- restore active cropland
- mitigate noxious weeds and manage invasive plants
- unless otherwise agreed to by the landowner

New statutory requirements include:

- final grading, topsoil replacement, installation of erosion control structures , seeding and mulching shall be completed within 30 days of backfill except when weather conditions, extenuating circumstances or unforeseen developments do not permit the work to be done within 30 days
- all reclamation including choice of seed mixes, method of reseeding, weed and erosion control measures and monitoring must be conducted in accordance with the Federal Seed Act, the Nebraska Seed Law and the Noxious Weed Control Act
- genetically appropriate and locally adapted native plant materials and seeds must be used based on site characteristics and vegetation as determined by a preconstruction site inventory
- all seed mixes must be state-certified seeds in accordance with the Nebraska Seed Law and sections 81-2,149 to 81-2,154
- mulch must be installed as required by site contours, seeding methods, weather conditions or when requested by a landowner

LB 845 has an emergency clause.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Sullivan

