

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB583

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 26, 2013
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Haar
One Liner: Change provisions relating to membership on the Climate Assessment Response Committee and provide duties for the committee

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Chambers, Hansen, Harr, Johnson, Lathrop, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 2 Senators Bloomfield, Schilz

Proponents: Senator Ken Haar Clinton Rowe Michael Hayes Martha Shulski John K Hansen Kenneth Winston	Representing: Introducer Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Nebraska N/A University of Nebraska Nebraska Farmers Union Nebraska Sierra Club
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Opponents: Dr John Boellstorff	Representing: None
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Neutral: Jerry Stilmock	Representing: Nebraska State Volunteers Firefighters- Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 583 amends section 2-4901 and 2-4902 pertaining to membership on the Climate Assessment Response Committee and the duties assigned. The bill would make the following changes:

Expand membership on the Committee to include a representative of the High Plains Regional Climate Center of the UNL School of Natural Resources

Assigns additional duties to the Committee to include serving as a resource to the Governor and others for climate change information and research and to facilitate climate information flow between the state and stakeholders. The bill would further direct the Committee to prepare a long-term strategic plan identifying a range of climate scenarios and the key threats arising from such scenarios, and relevant recommendations of the committee arising from such information.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment (AM 664) provides for a scaled back commissioned report completed by Sept. 1, 2014 that

would be a synthesis and assessment of the state of knowledge of climate, including historical climate patterns and projections of climate, and implications for agriculture, recreation and other sectors.

The initial bill contemplated that the commissioned report would include options and recommendations implicated from the data. AM664 contemplates that the Climate Assessment and Response Committee would review the report and by December 1, 2014, utilize the basic information provided in the commissioned study to provide a final report of significant conclusions, and recommendations.

Ken Schilz, Chairperson