

**ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB647**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 19, 2013  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Davis  
**One Liner:** Change cattle identification provisions of the Animal Importation Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Bloomfield, Hansen, Harr, Johnson, Lathrop, Schilz, Wallman
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Chambers
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Proponents:**

Senator Al Davis  
Melody Benjamin  
Jay Rempe  
Leroy Louden  
John K Hansen  
David Wright

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Self  
Nebraska Farmers Union  
Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Katie Zulkoski

**Representing:**

Nebraska Veterinary Medicine Association

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

LB 647 would insert a new section into the Nebraska Animal Import Act (sections 54-784.01 to 54-796) that would provide that individual identification is not required for cattle identified by registered brand, accompanied by state brand inspection certificate and imported directly from a mandatory brand inspection area of a state or portion of a state. Individual identification is defined for purposes of this section to mean a method approved by the Department of Agriculture uniquely identifying an animal to its herd of origin. For purposes of the section, individual ID is declared not synonymous with official identification, defined for purposes of the section as an identification method approved by USDA/APHIS which may include official tags, tattoos and brands accompanied by a brand inspection certificate.

Subsection (2) enumerates three exceptions to the general exemption from individual ID of cattle described in subsection (1). The Department would have authority to require individual ID for entry into the state if the Director determines:

The brand inspection system of the sending state is insufficient to enable tracing animals to a herd of origin;  
Identification by brands only conflicts with an applicable federal regulation;  
The cattle originate from a state or zone that is not designated tuberculosis accredited free or brucellosis Class Free or Class A.

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Subsection (3) expressly provides that a brand inspection certificate shall not be used in lieu of a certificate of veterinary inspection.

Subsection (4) expressly declares that the section does not impair the authority of the State Veterinarian to issue import orders imposing additional requirements for entry, including ID provisions.

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Ken Schilz, Chairperson