

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB551

Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 13, 2013

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

LB551 encourages landowners to grant access to their farm and ranch land for recreation and tourism activities by reducing the risk of liability. The bill revises existing recreation liability law and provides protection from liability for landowners allowing persons on their land for recreation and tourism activities, such as hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, water sports and archeological work. It allows landowners to charge a fee for such activities, but requires notice be given of inherent risks on the land, in order for the landowner to be protected from liability.

LB551 protects landowners from liability arising from injuries and damages caused by inherent risks of the land. It does not change ordinary standards of care the landowner has for not notifying the participant of known hazards, not maintaining equipment, or not properly training employees. Nor does it relieve the landowner or liability for acts that are grossly negligent, willfully in disregard for the safety of others or intentional.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ken Schilz