

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 917

Introduced by Wehrbein, 2; Louden, 49

Read first time January 8, 2004

Committee: Rereferred to Appropriations

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Forest Service; to provide for
2 acknowledgement, administration, and core programs; and
3 to provide intent relating to appropriations.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Nebraska Forest Service is acknowledged
2 within the University of Nebraska. The State Forester appointed
3 pursuant to section 85-162.01 shall be the administrative head of
4 the Nebraska Forest Service and shall report to the vice chancellor
5 of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

6 The mission of the Nebraska Forest Service is to provide
7 education and services to the people of Nebraska for the
8 protection, utilization, and enhancement of the state's tree and
9 forest resources. In carrying out its mission, the Nebraska Forest
10 Service shall provide education and services covering all aspects
11 of planting, protection, care, and utilization of the state's tree
12 and forest resources and shall provide fire protection to all rural
13 land in cooperation with the state's rural fire protection
14 districts.

15 The Nebraska Forest Service shall provide education and
16 services through four core programs: (1) The Rural Forestry
17 Assistance Program; (2) the Urban and Community Forestry Program;
18 (3) the Forest Health Program; and (4) the Rural Fire Prevention
19 and Control Program.

20 In carrying out its mission, the Nebraska Forest Service
21 shall work cooperatively with all federal, state, and local
22 entities to maximize services and funding. The Nebraska Forest
23 Service shall work cooperatively with the natural resources
24 districts to coordinate services and funding for the core programs.

25 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to
26 appropriate to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
27 from the General Fund the money necessary to fund the core programs
28 and services of the Nebraska Forest Service. Such appropriations

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1 shall be for the sole purpose of carrying out such programs.