

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB848

Chairperson: Senator Steve Halloran

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: January 25, 2022

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

LB 848 inserts express authorities for the Department of Agriculture under the Animal Health and Disease Control Act relating to planning for and response to emergency catastrophic livestock mortality events. The bill would also add to allowable carcass disposal options during an emergency the transport to a site designated by a local emergency management authority for carcass disposal. The change is intended to eliminate any conflict this section may have with emergency planning authorities.

The Covid-19 pandemic emergency resulted in recurring episodes of closure and diminished processing capacity of livestock processors. This disruption in the meat processing chain in turn imposes an economic impact on producers, the livestock industry and public and private animal health community, including costs to deal with animals that had to be disposed of through euthanization. The potential for additional processing sector disruptions as the pandemic continues presents a novel and ongoing catastrophic livestock mortality risk and obviates a need to ensure planning, capacity and preparedness to respond appropriately. A companion to this bill, LB 970, is pending before the Appropriations Committee to designate federal ARPA funds for the purposes of this bill.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Steve Halloran