



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 583

Chairperson: LeRoy Louden
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: February 22, 2007

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

LB 583 establishes a comprehensive electronics recycling system to ensure the safe environmentally sound management of covered electronic devices and their components; encourage the design of e-waste that is less toxic and more recyclable; promote a statewide infrastructure for collection, recycling and re-use of e-waste; and require manufacturers of covered electronic devices to be financially responsible for the collection, transportation and recycling of e-waste sold to households in Nebraska.

Covered electronic devices include computers, monitors, laptops, cathode-ray-tube and non-cathode-ray tube based televisions sold to consumers for use by household members. It does not cover devices purchased by businesses which generally already have access to e-waste recycling services.

Under LB 583 manufacturers must register with the Department of Environmental Quality and pay an annual registration fee based on the quantity of sales covered electronic devices in Nebraska. Beginning January 2009 no covered electronic devices may be sold by retailers or manufacturers unless there is a manufacturer's label permanently affixed and visible on the device.

Manufacturers have the option of:

1. paying a recycling fee of up to 50 cents per pound of covered electronic devices sold by the manufacturer in Nebraska in the previous calendar year; or
2. instead of paying a recycling fee, choose to individually or join with other manufacturers to submit and carry out a statewide plan approved by DEQ to collect, transport and recycle their covered electronic devices.

Recycling fees will be used by DEQ to fund and carry out a program throughout the state to collect, transport and recycle the manufacturer's covered electronic devices. DEQ may contract with a third-party to carry out its responsibilities.

DEQ and manufacturers are encouraged to use the existing collection and consolidation infrastructure including household waste collection facilities, transfer stations, and landfills, and to use existing recyclers to remove the waste from collection points. In addition, manufacturers are encouraged to work with non-profit entities to refurbish and re-use covered electronic devices. Manufacturers will be granted a credit for any covered electronic devices that are refurbished and re-used.

LB 583 does not create a landfill ban on electronic waste.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Don Preister