

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB391

Hearing Date: Thursday February 17, 2011
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Schilz
One Liner: Create the Nebraska Invasive Species Council

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Langemeier, McCoy, Schilz, Haar
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Smith
Present Not Voting:		

Proponents:

Senator Ken Schilz
Dave Tunink
Dean Edson

Representing:

Introducer
Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Karie Decker
Scott Josiah

Representing:

UNL-Nebraska Invasive Species Project
Nebraska Forest Service

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 391 would create the Nebraska Invasive Species Council to address growing concerns about harmful invasive species.

Sections 1 through 6 contain new language creating the Nebraska Invasive Species Council. The bill would do the following:

- Declares legislative findings about the harm of invasive species caused to Nebraska's resources and the need for a mechanism through which interested organizations may collaborate and develop a plan to address the threat;
- Clarifies that invasive species means non-native, aquatic or terrestrial organisms that can spread and cause economic or biological harm; and does not include livestock, honey bees, intentional agronomic crops or non-native organisms that do not cause harm;
- Creates the Nebraska Invasive Species Council that has seven voting members from specific agencies or organizations, and up to five more voting members from the public representing other interests;
- Allows non-voting, ex officio members from four federal entities from whom council members shall seek input;

- Provides duties for the council, including: recommending action to minimize harm from invasive species; developing a statewide adaptive management plan; providing a forum for understanding invasive species issues; facilitating coordination between all levels of governmental entities for the prevention, control, and management of invasive species; assisting with public outreach and awareness; and providing information to the Legislature;
- Provides what the contents should be in an adaptive management plan;
- Requires the plan to be updated at least once every three years and submitted to the Governor and Agriculture Committee;
- Requires an annual report and recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and Agriculture Committee; and
- Requires the council to establish advisory and technical committees and complete the initial plan within three years after the effective date.

Explanation of amendments:

AM683 clarifies that domestic pets are not considered invasive species under the bill and adds that a representative from the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts is to serve on the council.

Chris Langemeier, Chairperson