

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 355**

Introduced by Carlson, 38; Dubas, 34; Karpisek, 32; Larson, 40;  
Schilz, 47; Wallman, 30.

Read first time January 13, 2011

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to amend section 2-3815, Reissue
- 2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for an
- 3 agricultural trade representative and state funding
- 4 intent; and to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           2-3815 The Department of Agriculture shall establish an  
4 agriculture promotion and development program. The department shall  
5 employ a program director and one specialist in research techniques  
6 and market development. Both individuals shall report directly to the  
7 Director of Agriculture.

8           The department may employ an agricultural trade  
9 representative who shall report directly to the Director of  
10 Agriculture. It is the intent of the Legislature that the department  
11 seek to fund half of the annual salary and expenditures of the  
12 agricultural trade representative position through cooperative  
13 funding secured from private and public entities with responsibility  
14 and interests in expanding and servicing international markets for  
15 Nebraska agricultural products.

16           The University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and  
17 Natural Resources shall employ a poultry pathologist.

18           The program shall concentrate on the identification and  
19 development of opportunities to enhance profitability in agriculture  
20 and to stimulate agriculture-related economic development. Program  
21 activities may include, but not be limited to, (1) promotion and  
22 market development, (2) value-added processing of alternative and  
23 traditional commodities, (3) agricultural diversification, including  
24 poultry development and aquaculture, (4) agricultural cooperatives,  
25 and (5) alternative crops.

1           In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the  
2 program director may, if he or she deems necessary, convene an  
3 advisory committee to assist the program director in developing and  
4 implementing program activities. Representatives from the Nebraska  
5 Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the  
6 University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the Department of  
7 Economic Development, the United States Department of Agriculture  
8 grant programs, and the private sector may serve on such committee at  
9 the request of the program director. If an advisory committee is  
10 convened, committee members shall not receive any reimbursement for  
11 expenses.

12           The Department of Agriculture shall serve as the  
13 facilitator, coordinator, and catalyst for developments through and  
14 with the Nebraska Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension  
15 Service of the University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the  
16 Department of Economic Development, other state agencies, the United  
17 States Department of Agriculture grant programs, and the private  
18 sector. It is the intent of the Legislature that the department  
19 foster close working relationships between production agriculture and  
20 existing programs for the purposes of agricultural development and  
21 promotion. The department may enter into such contracts as may be  
22 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

23           For purposes of this section, unless the context  
24 otherwise requires, private sector shall include, but not be limited  
25 to, representatives of food industry associations, lenders, or

1 venture capital groups.

2                   Sec. 2. Original section 2-3815, Reissue Revised Statutes

3 of Nebraska, is repealed.