

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB274**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 07, 2017  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Halloran  
**One Liner:** Change provisions of the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act and eliminate the Nebraska Rangeland Grasshopper Control Act

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Blood, Brasch, Chambers, Halloran, Harr, Krist, Lowe

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Steve Halloran  
Greg Ibach  
John Hansen

**Representing:**

Introducer, District 33  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Nebraska Farmers Union

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 274 outright repeals the Nebraska Rangeland Grasshopper Control Act (sections 2-1066 through 2-1071) while providing authorities of the Department of Agriculture under the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act (sections 2-1072 through 2-10,117) to implement and manage programs to control grasshopper and other plant pest infestations. Specifically, LB 274 inserts a series of revisions throughout the PP&PPA to effect the purposes of the bill as follows:

- Amends section 2-1073 which articulates policy objectives of the Act to include the protection of agricultural interests and recognizing a need to regulate the movement and control of plant pests;
- Amends section 2-1091 which lists authorities of the Department under the Act, by inserting new subsection (15) providing express authority to implement programs to eradicate, manage, treat or control plant pests;
- Amends section 2-10,110 which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with USDA or other federal agencies in implementation or enforcement of the Plant Pest and Plant Protection Act or the 1944 Organic Act as amended. LB 274 revises this section to expand cooperative activities with other agencies expressly authorized to include receipt and dispersion of aid or pass-through funds, expand entities with whom the Department may enter into cooperative agreements to include state and local agencies, and strikes language confining cooperative agreements between the Department and other agencies to federal assistance under the Organic Act of 1944, substituting a generic reference to federal programs related to plant protection and plant pests;

- Amends section 2-10,116 which grants authority to adopt regulations by inserting new subsection (12) expressly authorizing regulations relating to the implementation of programs involving control of plant pests.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM254) rewrites authority to enter into cooperative agreements to include USDA or any other person. Person is a defined term under the act.

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Lydia Brasch, Chairperson