

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB729

Chairperson: Senator Steve Halloran

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: February 19, 2019

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

LB 729 provides an incentive for farmers across the state to plant cover crops to improve soil health and productivity on Nebraska ag land, with a direct focus along waterways. The funding for this act shall come from a combination of federal, state, and local grants, along with any other funds to be designated going forward.

This bill would phase in implementation of this act through priority zones based on areas of high nitrate runoff. After the last zone is implemented all qualified claimants in this state would be eligible to receive incentives provided by this act. Qualified claimants would be any individual or legal entity that owns agricultural and horticultural land that has no more than eight full-time employees who work as a part of a farming operation and owns land within two and one half miles of a waterway.

The incentive provided under this act shall be 20 dollars per acre for for single-species and 45 dollars for multi-species. Applications for these incentives shall be administered by the department and upon completion of the form.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lynne Walz