

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB396**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 23, 2021  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Brandt  
**One Liner:** Adopt the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Tom Brandt  
Sarah Smith  
Marcus Urban

Al Davis  
Gina Hudson  
Joan Ruskamp  
Ilka Oberst  
Justin Carter  
Nathan Beacom  
John Skretta  
Alex McKiernan  
Bill Hawkins

**Opponents:**

**Neutral:**

Tara Dunker

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Nebraska Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, NE Corn Growers, NE State Dairy Association, NE Pork Producers, NE Soybean and NE Wheat  
Sierra Club  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Omaha Public Schools  
Nebraska Food Council  
Center for Rural Affairs  
ESU 6, NRCSA, NCSA  
Robinette Farms  
Self

**Representing:**

**Representing:**

Self

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**Submitted Written Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Jeremy Ekeler

**Representing:**

Nebraska Catholic Conference

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**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

Section 1. Creates the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act.

Section 2. Sets out definitions for "Food" and "Program" under this act.

Section 3. Establishes the program to be administered statewide by the State Department of Education.

Section 4. Such program shall link elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools in this state with locally and regionally produced or processed food in order to encourage children to develop healthy eating habits and improve the incomes of Nebraska farmers. This may include activities that provide students with hands-on learning opportunities.

Section 5. Requires the Department of Education to employ a coordinator to administer the program whose duties are listed beginning on page 2 line 27.

Section 6. Requires the Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Education to cooperate in administering this program and provide professional consultation and staff support.

Section 7. States intent to seek \$100,000 in General Funds each fiscal year for this program.

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Lynne Walz, Chairperson