

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB148

Chairperson: Senator Bruce Bostelman

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 27, 2021

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

LB 148 moves six environmental programs from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality effective July 1, 2021.

The bill moves the following four environmental programs into the newly created Environmental Safety Act.

- Swimming pools,
- Recreational camps,
- Mobile home parks, and
- Private water supply and/or private sewage home loan inspection.

The Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act is also moved to NDEE. The Act is amended to add a provision to clarify the expiration date of biennial licensing for public water system operators. The Nebraska Public Health and Environmental Laboratory remains at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Board is removed from the Uniform Credentialing Act and placed under the Water Well Standards and Contractors Practice Act. The bill includes a new conflict of interest provision for board members.

The bill also updates reference to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act from 2016 to 2021.

LB 148 creates the Environmental Safety Cash Fund to pay the expenses of the NDEE related programs under the new Environmental Safety Act and the Engineering Plan Review Cash Fund is created to pay the expenses of NDEE related engineering reviews of plans and specifications, including swimming pools.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bruce Bostelman