



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
Committee Statement  
LB 435**

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**Hearing Date:** February 13, 2007  
**Committee On:** Agriculture

**Introducer(s):** (Raikes)  
**Title:** Provide for a Nebraska State Fairgrounds Master Plan

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

5	Yes	Senators Karpisek, McDonald, Wallman, Preister, Erdman
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
3	Absent	Senators Dierks, Chambers, Dubas

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**Proponents:**

Senator Ron Raikes  
Richard Campbell  
  
Jeff Maul  
Harry L. Muhlbach  
Mark Bowen  
Kent Seacrest  
Alan M. Wood

**Representing:**

Introducer, District 25  
Citizen Volunteer/Chair of the Mayors Event  
Center Task Force  
Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Self  
City of Lincoln  
2015 Vision Group  
Self

**Opponents:**

Tamas R. Allan  
Rod J. Robertson  
Joseph McDermott  
John K. Hansen  
Barney Cosner  
Ken Killion

**Representing:**

Nebraska State Fair Park  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Nebraska State Fair  
Nebraska Farmers Union  
Nebraska State Fair Park  
Nebraska Association of Fair Managers

**Neutral:**

Bob Puschendorf  
Donald Everett  
Roger R. Wehrbein

**Representing:**

Nebraska State Historical Society  
Self  
Self

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

LB 435 amends §2-111 by inserting a new subsection (2) assigning a duty to the State Fair Board to provide to the Governor and the Legislature a Nebraska State Fairgrounds Master Plan. The master plan is to be submitted no later than November 1, 2007 and developed in consultation with the city of Lincoln, Lancaster County, and the State Building Division of the Department of Administrative Services. Elements of the master plan are prescribed as follows:

- a) current and updated plan for use of the Nebraska State Fair Park over a 15-year planning period
- b) 15-year cash flow analysis of costs associated with the plan
- c) projected status of deferred maintenance at the end of the planning period
- d) economic cost-benefit analysis accruing from the plan
- e) analysis of cost savings from co-location of the state fair at the site of another agricultural exposition site

As introduced, LB 435 would also amend §2-106 to limit the “disbursement” of funds for improvements to State Fair Park beyond general maintenance and repairs or as necessary to correct fire or safety deficiencies.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendments strike the original sections and becomes the bill. The amendment substitutes a study by the Agriculture Committee of programming needs to conduct a state fair and enhance other utilization of a state fair campus and the costs to achieve such programming needs at State Fair Park or at a new site. Sections 1 & 2 amend §2-108 and §2-111 to direct the Fair Board to cooperate with the Ag Committee study and authorizes the State Fair Board to commit funding to underwrite such study project

A new section 3 is added directing the Agriculture Committee, with the assistance of DAS, to perform a study with the following elements:

- Identification of capital facilities and infrastructure required at present state fair site to meet 15-year program needs to serve as state fair and to maximize off-season utilization and 15-year cash flow projection incorporating capitol improvements to meet such program need
- Identification of capital facilities and infrastructure required at alternative location to meet comparable 15-year program need and 15-year cash flow projection.

This section further directs that the Ag Committee study would be assisted by analysis and recommendations relevant to the purposes of the study by an independent consultant commissioned with the assistance of the DAS. Cost of the study are to be underwritten by contributions received by DAS for that purpose (i.e. funds contributed by State Fair Board as

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authorized elsewhere in the amendment). Such independent consultant report is to be submitted on or before November 15. The Ag Committee is directed to provide a report of its findings and recommendation by December 15 with an intervening public hearing of the committee held after receipt of the consultant report.

Section three and revisions to §2-111 in section 2 are terminated on January 1, 2008. The amendment contains the emergency clause.

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**Senator Philip Erdman, Chairperson**