



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 594**

Hearing Date: March 8, 2007
Committee On: Natural Resources

Introducer(s): (Kopplin)
Title: Limit the granting of water well permits as prescribed

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - X Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Christensen, Dubas, Fischer, Hudkins, Kopplin, Louden, Wallman
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Carlson

Proponents:
Senator Gail Kopplin
Len Schropfer
Steve Larrick

Representing:
Introducer
Self
Nebraska Green Party

Opponents:
Don Adams
Lumir Jedlicka
Jay Rempé
Duane Filsinger
Jerry Heithoff
Dennis Schueth

Representing:
Nebraskans First, Inc.
Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District
Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District; Rich Kahman; Wryan Wright
Nebraska Water Resources Association;
Nebraska State Irrigation Association
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District
Nebraska Well Drillers Association
Nebraska Bankers Association
Self
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Self
Self

Gary Westphal

Curtis Friesen
Dale Wiles
Jerry Stilmock
Tonny Beck
Stan Staab
Allan Ortmeier
Tommy Higgins

Clayton Goeke
Mike Allen
Paul Koch
Jeff Bettenhausen

Self
Self
Nebraska Tech Consulting
Nebraska Irrigation, Inc.

Neutral:
None

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 594 does the following:

- Section 1 Intent language – It is in the best interest of the state of Nebraska to temporarily restrict the issuance of new surface water appropriations and water well permits for irrigation purposes.
- Section 2 Prohibits the granting of surface water appropriations and water well permits for applications received on or after January 1, 2009.
Exceptions are:
- (1) Domestic purposes;
 - (2) Public water suppliers;
 - (3) Test holes;
 - (4) Dewatering wells with an intended use of one year or less;
 - (5) Wells constructed pursuant to a ground water remediation plan under the Environmental Protection Act;
 - (6) Water wells designed and constructed to pump 50 gallons per minute or less, unless there are two or more wells connected or combined to serve a single project such that the collective pumping exceeds 50 gallons;
 - (7) Water wells for range livestock;
 - (8) Emergency situations regarding water for human consumption or public health and safety;
 - (9) Transfers so long as the new use does not exceed historic consumption use;
 - (10) Municipal water wells that have received approval under the Municipal and Rural Domestic Ground Water Transfer Permit Act prior to January 1, 2007;
 - (11) Increases in ground water irrigated acres; and
 - (12) Surface water uses for which temporary permits are issued.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

None

Senator LeRoy Loudon, Chairperson