



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
Committee Statement  
LB 69**

---

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2007  
**Committee On:** Agriculture

**Introducer(s):** (Hudkins)

**Title:** Change the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act

---

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

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

**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Dierks, Karpisek, Dubas, McDonald, Wallman, Preister, and Erdman
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Chambers

---

**Proponents:**

Senator Carol Hudkins  
John Jordison  
Kenneth C. Winston  
Jim Ballard

**Representing:**

Introducer, District 21  
Nebraska Rural Development Commission  
Nebraska Chapter Sierra Club  
Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 69 earmarks 25% of the grant funds awarded through Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act for qualifying specialty crop development purposes. “Specialty crop” is added as a defined term within §2-5415 under section 1. Section 2 amends §2-5416 to add encouragement of enterprises in the production and marketing of specialty crops as an additional enumerated purpose of the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act. Entities eligible for grant awards in §2-5418 is revised under section 4 of the bill by eliminating an eligibility requirement for farming or ranching operations to be part of a collaborative arrangement with other operations or entities.

---

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendment eliminates the earmark of 25% of grant funds for specialty crop projects by striking section 3.

---

**Senator Philip Erdman, Chairperson**