



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 493

Chairperson: LeRoy Louden
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: March 8, 2007

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

LB 493 amends several sections of Nebraska Statute dealing with the Water Policy Task Force. This group was created and was involved with the passage of LB 962 in 2004. As a result of LB 962, the Water Policy Task Force was given the task of examining five areas relating to the use and management of Nebraska surface and ground water:

- 1) Review of previous law, specifically LB 108, passed in 1996, to see if any changes may be needed with regard to previous water management issues.
- 2) An evaluation and if needed, drafting of potential legislation concerning temporary water transfers.
- 3) An evaluation and if needed, drafting of potential legislation concerning permanent water transfers.
- 4) Determination as to the usefulness of water leasing and development of a potential water banking system to facilitate temporary or permanent transfers of water.
- 5) A determination as to what other ways inequities, if any, between surface water users and ground water users need to be addressed, and potential actions the state could take to address such inequities.

LB 493 would also ask that a review be conducted of research done by the University of Nebraska relating to implementation of LB 962 and a recommendation made concerning further research that may be needed for continued implementation thereof.

The bill would reduce the required number of meetings of the Task Force to one each year. More meetings could be held on an as needed basis.

Finally, the bill would eliminate obsolete language contained in Nebraska Revised Statutes sec. 46-2,134, requiring the executive committee of the Task Force to apply for grants awarded from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund that were to be awarded in 2003.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Chris Langemeier