



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 790

Chairperson: Philip Erdman
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: January 22, 2008

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

LB 790 amends §2-5109 to increase the maximum dollar amount per acre which may be paid for enrolling eligible lands in the buffer strip program. Currently, the statutory maximum rate is \$150 / acre. The bill increases the maximum rate to \$250 / acre. The actual rate is set by regulation within the statutory cap.

The buffer strip program provides incentive to landowners to manage lands near waterways in vegetative cover as a filtering barrier to runoff carrying chemicals, nutrients, and sediments into streams and other surface waters. Currently, new and renewal applications for enrolling land in buffer strips has declined sharply in part due to the inability of compensation offered under the buffer strip program to compete with other economic uses.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Philip Erdman