

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1057

Hearing Date: Friday February 05, 2010
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Carlson
One Liner: Create the Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Carlson, Cook, Dubas, Fischer, Haar, Langemeier, McCoy, Schilz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Carlson
Mike Clements
Brad Edgerton

Steve Nelson
Tom Schwarz
Mike Ingram
Chuck Lambert
Rhn Jacobsen
James Uerling
Don Adams
Matt Harrison
Ron Hunter
Larry Dix
Duane Gangwish

Representing:

Introducer
Lower Republican Natural Resources District
Nebraska Water Resources Association, Nebraska State Irrigation Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Self
Franklin County
Southern Valley Schools
Franklin City Council
Self
Nebraskans First
Self
Ag Valley Coop
Nebraska Association of County Officials
Nebraska Cattlemen

Opponents:

Jasper Fanning

Representing:

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Upper Republican Natural Resources District

Neutral:

Dan Smith
Ed Schrock

Representing:

Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1057 would create the Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force to study how to ensure sustainable water use in the basin, maintain compliance with interstate compacts, and avoid water-short years.

Explanation of amendments:

The adopted committee amendment, AM1895, replaces much of the bill. The bill, as amended, would do the following:

Section 1 creates the Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force. There are to be 21 voting members (excluding the state agency representatives) representing a cross-section of the Republican River Basin. The Governor is to appoint members representing the following entities, with the number of members to be appointed noted in parentheses: natural resources districts in the Republican River Basin (2); irrigation districts in the basin (4); University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (1); Game and Parks Commission (1); Department of Agriculture (1); Department of Natural Resources (1); agriculture related businesses in the basin (2) and one representative each from a school district, city, county, and public power district in the basin.

The Legislature's Executive Board chairperson is also to appoint three ex-officio, non-voting senators, including two who reside in the basin, and the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee. The task force is to be housed within the Department of Natural Resources for administrative and budgetary purposes, advisory support may be requested from federal and state agencies, and non-state employees are to be reimbursed for expenses.

Section 2 states that the task force is to meet quarterly and may hire a facilitator, and is to convene within 30 days after appointments are done. The task force is to provide a report to the Governor and Legislature, and is to terminate on June 30, 2012. Also, the intention is stated that expenses are to be paid for from funds appropriated from the Water Resources Cash Fund.

Section 3 attaches an emergency clause.

Chris Langemeier, Chairperson