

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB235

Hearing Date: Monday March 09, 2009

Committee On: Education

Introducer: Adams

One Liner: Provide the Board of Educational Lands and Funds with the power to issue leases relating to solar and wind energy and enter into contracts relating to carbon sequestration rights

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Giese, Haar, Howard, Sullivan

Nay:

Absent: 1 Senator Cornett

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Greg Adams
Richard Endacott
Jess Wolf
Kenneth Winston
Jace Nore
Ed George

Representing:

Introducer
Board of Education Lands & Funds
Nebraska State Education Association
Nebraska Sierra Club
Sunone Solutions
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 235 would allow the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to 1) issue leases for electricity generation utilizing solar or wind energy, and 2) enter into contracts for the sale of carbon sequestration rights.

Section 1 of the bill would allow the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to issue leases for electricity generation using solar or wind energy. The board would be authorized to determine the duration, terms, and conditions of such leases. In issuing such leases, the board would be required to consider comparable arrangements involving other lands similarly situated and any other relevant factors bearing upon such leases.

Section 2 would enable the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to enter into contracts for the sale of carbon sequestration rights. The board would be authorized to enter into contracts according to terms or conditions it deems appropriate, though such contracts could not exceed 10 years in duration. In entering into such contracts, the board would be required to consider comparable arrangements involving other lands similarly situated and any other relevant factors bearing upon such contracts.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment strikes the original sections and becomes the bill. The amendment adds a new section to

clarify that leases for wind and solar energy production and contracts for the sale of carbon offset credits would be governed by the provisions of the bill, rather than existing statutes pertaining to agricultural, mineral, or oil and gas leases. The amendment also changes terminology used to describe carbon credits.

Greg Adams, Chairperson