

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB98**

---

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 17, 2009  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Carlson  
**One Liner:** Change noxious weed grant programs and the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force

---

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

---

**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Carlson, Council, Dierks, Dubas, Karpisek, Price, Wallman, Schilz  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

---

**Proponents:**

Tom Carlson  
Mike Sarchet  
Charles Brooks  
Kent Aden  
Merle Illian  
  
Rob Schultz  
Milt Moravelt  
  
Dick Kincaid  
Michael Clements  
  
Scott Josiah  
Tim Smith  
Ted Tietjen  
Brad Edgerton  
James Dietz  
Jay Rempe  
Tom Schwarz  
Larry Dix  
Duane Gangwish  
Michael Ingram  
Gloria Erickson  
Steve Donovan

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Twin Cities Development Association  
Nebraska Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force  
Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District  
Eastern Republican River Riparian Project - Twin Valley  
Weed Management Coordinator  
Nebraska Weed Control Association  
Central Platte Natural Resource District & Platte Valley  
Weed Management Area  
Platte Valley Weed Management Area & Buffalo County  
Lower Republican Natural Resource District & Nebraska  
Association of Resource Districts  
Nebraska Forest Service  
Southwest Weed Management Area  
Republican River Riparian and Restoration Partnership  
Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District  
Twin Valley Public Power District  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Self  
Nebraska Association of County Officials  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Franklin County Supervisor  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Ducks Unlimited & Nebraska League of Conservation  
Voters

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 98 extends for two additional years statutory authority contained within the Noxious Weed Control Act for the Riparian Management Task Force and reaffirms statutory intent for funding of an associated grant program.

Specifically, LB 98 makes the following substantive revisions:

\*Amends Section 2-958.02(4) to reaffirm legislative intent to appropriate \$2 million annually for the purposes authorized by this subsection available for projects addressing invasive riparian vegetation, and extends the termination date for the grant category authorized by this subsection from to June 30, 2009 to June 30, 2011. An obsolete directive that priority be given in the first year of grant awards to projects located in fully appropriated river basins of streams subject to interstate compact is stricken.

\*Amends Section 2-967 which creates the Riparian Management Task Force and assigns its membership. Under current law, the underlying statutory authority for the Task Force expires on June 30, 2009. LB 98 extends the sunset date to June 30, 2011

\*Amends Section 2-968 which assigns duties to the Riparian Management Task Force, including that the Task Force submit a final report prior to June 30, 2009, and intermediate recommendations. LB 98 extends the deadline for a final report to June 30, 2011 and strikes obsolete text regarding an intermediate report of recommendations.

The bill is introduced with the emergency clause

---

**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM 641) strikes the original provisions and becomes the bill. The authorizations for the existence and duties of Riparian Management Task Force, and for the riparian vegetation grant program found in Section 2-958.02, Section 2-967 and Section 2-968, would be extended by the amendment four years from current expiration date, rather than just two years, to sunset on June 30, 2013. Additionally, Section 2-958.02 is revised to rewrite for clarity an existing directive that the Director give priority to grants awarded under authority of this subsection to those consistent with policy established in Section 2-968. The amendment restates that the Director give priority to grants that are consistent with any plans and priorities for riparian vegetation management established by the Riparian Management Task Force pursuant to Section 2-968.

The amendment further inserts new text identifying non-general fund sources of funding for grant programs authorized pursuant to Section 2-958.02 as amended.

\*A new subsection (7) is inserted into Section 2-958.02 by section 2 of the amendment directing the Director of Agriculture to apply for grants from the Environmental Trust Fund in the upcoming grant cycle beginning Sept. 2009, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA prior to July 31, 2009.

\* New section 5 amends Section 2-5106 to provide for a one-time transfer of \$500,000 from the Buffer Strip Incentive Cash Fund to the Noxious Weed and Invasive Species Assistance Fund. Section 2-958.01 is amended by section 1 of AM 641 to conform internal reference to this transfer authorization and strikes an obsolete reference to a previous transfer to this fund.

The amendment retains the emergency clause.

---

Tom Carlson, Chairperson