



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 140

Chairperson: Dave Pankonin
Committee: Nebraska Retirement Systems
Date of Hearing: March 4, 2009

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

LB 140 is intended to demonstrate Nebraska's disapproval of the Sudanese Government acts of genocide by instructing the Nebraska Investment Council to divest funds from Sudanese companies or companies doing substantial, material business in Sudan. This legislative initiative for divestment does not apply to investment accounts that are employee directed.

This legislation details the manner in which the Nebraska Investment Council shall divest funds from Sudan or companies doing business with Sudan. It also includes provisions for the Investment Officer to cease and revoke divestment plans when the United States Government declares Sudan has honored its commitment to end attacks for at least 12 months.

This plan for divestment, which has been authorized by the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007, signed by then-President Bush, will not have a significant impact on financial returns in Nebraska. It will, however, lend impact to the overall United States plan to end subsidization of the genocidal atrocities in Sudan.

The bill recognizes that divestment from a nation should be used sparingly and judiciously. The Presidential and Congressional declaration of genocide, as well as Presidential authorization of a state or local government to prohibit investments or divest current assets from Sudan, satisfies this high threshold.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Bill Avery