



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 160

Chairperson: Chris Langemeier
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: January 23, 2009

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

LB 160 authorizes a natural resources district which encompasses a city of the metropolitan class to dedicate a portion of its existing mill levy, to finance flood protection and water quality enhancement projects through the issuance of bonds. The bill requires a district-wide public vote for any proposed bond levy that would exceed 2 cents within the NRD's 4 ½ levy limit. Bond proceeds are used for design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of multipurpose projects and practices for storm water management, flood control and water quality enhancement, including: low-impact development best management measures and flood plain buyout; dams and reservoir basins; and levies.

LB 160 restricts projects, including a reservoir or water quality basin having a permanent pool, to no greater than 400 surface acres and would prohibit the use of eminent domain for purposes of enhancing private developers. In addition, the legislation provides public access for permanent pools over 20 surface acres as well as further access requirements when suitable for recreational use.

The bill authorizes the issuance of warrants to make partial payments of bond proceeds and authorizes payment of fees for placement of warrants or bonds.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Tim Gay