



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 593**

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**Chairperson:** Tom Carlson  
**Committee:** Agriculture  
**Date of Hearing:** March 3, 2009

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

LB 593 is a bill to honor the 1982 vote of the people for Initiative 300, which they placed in the Nebraska Constitution. Voters in Nebraska supported the concepts found in Initiative 300, which restricted non-family farm corporations from acquiring, or otherwise obtaining an interest, whether legal, beneficial, or otherwise, in any title to real estate used for farming or ranching in this state, or engaging in farming or ranching.

LB 593 was drafted by incorporating the original concepts of Initiative 300 with adjustments made from recent court decisions. The bill allows for agricultural production within or outside of the state of Nebraska if it contributes to the agricultural production activities of a farm or ranch. Residents of other states can own farms or ranches in Nebraska and qualify as family farmers in Nebraska. Also, consideration is given for people who would otherwise engage in day-to-day labor and day-to-day management but are prevented from performing these duties because of physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities.

LB 593 goes beyond the original Initiative 300 by allowing five or fewer unrelated individual farmers or ranchers to join together to form a farm entity. The only stipulation is that all of the five or fewer farmers and ranchers must provide day-to-day labor and day-to-day management. There is no requirement as to where they work on a farm or ranch.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator M.L. Dierks**