

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB107

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 15, 2011
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Carlson
One Liner: Change Grain Sorghum Development, Utilization, and Marketing Board provisions

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Bloomfield, Brasch, Carlson, Harr, Karpisek, Larson, Lathrop, Wallman

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Carlson
Larry Dedic

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The primary substantive provisions of LB 107 are contained in sections 1 & 2. Section 2-4004 as revised by Section 1 would retain a seven member board but reduce the number of grower districts to four and increase the number of at-large appointments to three. Appointments for district and at-large appointment are to be made to achieve an equitable representation of the geographic distribution of sorghum production in the state. Section 2 amends Section 2-4005 by eliminating the petition process for nominating candidates for open board positions. As revised by LB 107, growers would place themselves in nomination for appointment by submitting to the Board a gubernatorial appointment form, two letters of endorsement by fellow growers, a statement of interest in serving, and documentation of qualification to serve. Section 2 further authorizes the Board to publish guidelines regarding materials to substantiate qualification to serve. All names submitting application for district seats and 2 of 3 at-large appointments would be forward to the governor. The Board would continue to appoint one at-large member.

Other harmonizing and statutory reorganization/clean up changes made necessary by the primary substantive changes contained in sections 1 & 2 are made elsewhere in the Act in the remainder of LB 107. These include:

The definition of Board member grower districts is reassigned from its current location in Section 2-4005 to Section 2-4004. Provisions of Section 2-4006 defining terms as three years are also reassigned to Section 2-4004.

Obsolete provisions pertaining to the Board's initial organization are stricken from Sections 2-4005, 2-4006 and 2-4007 by sections 2-4 of the bill;

Transitional provisions are placed into Section 2-4006 to reassign current board members to the new district and

at-large seats as revised by the bill.

LB 107 makes three other related secondary substantive changes as follows:

Section 4 inserts new text in Section 2-4007 to enable revision of Board composition by rule and regulation of the Board as appropriate to maintain an equitable representation of sorghum producers if the board finds the composition of the board is incompatible with equitable representation of sorghum producers due to changing geographic distribution of sorghum production and marketing patterns. Certain parameters for Board size and number of districts are prescribed. A requirement that a producer shall have been actively engaged in production is stricken as a qualification to serve on the board by section 1 of the bill;

Board members terms are clarified to continue until a successor is appointed and qualified.

LB 107 is introduced with the Emergency Clause.

Tom Carlson, Chairperson