

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB305

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 08, 2011
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Larson
One Liner: Implement a state meat and poultry inspection program

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Wallman, Lathrop, Larson, Harr, Carlson, Brasch, Bloomfield
Nay:	1	Senator Karpisek
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Proponents:

Senator Tyson Larson
Butch Hughes
Debbie Borg
Darrel Eberspacher
Michael Kelsey
Dawn Kucera
Harry Muhlbach
Mindy Patterson
John Schoneberg
Miles Garwood
Tannon Dvorak
Derry Mayfield
Clem Disterhaupt
John Hansen

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self
Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Self
United Horsemen
Self
Self
Self
Self
Nebraska Farmers Union

Opponents:

Valerie Hinderlider
John Sherman Bixby
Michael D. Leschinsky Sr.
Peggy Fairfield

Representing:

Break Heart Ranch Horse Rescue
Harmony Hill Stables
Self
Harmony Hill Stables

Neutral:

Pat Ptakek
Ed Woepfel
Loran Schmit

Representing:

Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Cooperative Council
Association of Nebraska Ethanol Producers

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 305 would state legislative intent and, assign duties and authorizations to the Director of Agriculture, to implement a state cooperative meat and poultry inspection program as authorized under cited provision of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the federal Poultry Products Inspection Act. Specifically, section 3 inserts a new section of statute

that would:

- 1) state legislative intent that on or before January 1, 2013, the Director shall implement program of inspection at establishments that process meat and poultry for human consumption;
- 2) authorize the Department to employ a program administrator responsible for carrying out actions necessary to prepare such program, including necessary consultation with USDA and the preparation of a state performance plan that implements inspection program standards at least equal to those imposed under federal meat and poultry inspection, and;
- 3) assign a duty to the Director to provide a report to the Legislature identifying statutory and regulatory changes and resources required to implement the inspection program. The report is to include recommended licensure and inspection fees, including fee-for-service charges, sufficient to cash fund the program.

Section 4 establishes the Cooperative State Meat and Poultry Inspection Cash Fund as a repository of appropriated funds and other funds that may be acquired or designated and authorizes expenditure for purposes of carrying out section 3 of the bill. Section 1 of the bill amends 54-857 of the Commercial Feed Act to direct the transfer of \$100,000 annually in each year of the upcoming biennium from the Commercial Feed Administration Cash Fund to the new cash fund.

Sections 3 and 4 of the bill are incorporated into the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law by section 2 of the bill.

Tom Carlson, Chairperson