

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB691

Chairperson: Senator Bill Avery

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2011

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

LB 691 acknowledges Nebraska's strong agricultural base and the need to invest in crop production and strengthen rural communities by requiring the Department of Administrative Services, state agencies, and Nebraska institutions of higher education to purchase biobased products. Biobased products are defined as commercial or industrial products that are composed of biological products, renewable agricultural materials, or forestry material, or intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

The Department of Administrative Services shall establish a program to give purchasing preference to biobased products in reference to the federal BioPreferred Program. If the biobased product does not meet the performance standard of the product or is priced in excess of an equivalent nonbiobased product, the materiel administrator may determine that purchase of a biobased product is not necessary. The materiel administrator may provide flexibility for the purchase of biobased products by setting a percentage, up to five percent, that the biobased product may exceed when considered against the purchase of a nonbiobased product.

A biobased product vendor must certify that the product meets the content requirements set by the federal BioPreferred Program. An annual report indicating the quantity and types of biobased products purchased must be submitted to the Governor and Legislature.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lydia Brasch