

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB884

Chairperson: Senator Tom Carlson

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2012

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

LB 884 creates the Agricultural Literacy Task Force which will evaluate current K-12 educational standards and curricula to determine if those standards and curricula provide Nebraska students with a meaningful understanding of agriculture and its contribution to Nebraska's economy, way of life and overall well-being.

The Agricultural Literacy Task Force members must be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of the act. Task Force membership includes:

- the chairperson of the Education Committee or his or her designee
- the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee or his or her designee
- the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee
- the Director of Agriculture or his or her designee
- two members representing education to be appointed by the chairperson of the Education Committee
- two members representing agriculture to be appointed by the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee
- one member from a private agricultural literacy entity or organization appointed by the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee.

The chairperson of the Education Committee shall appoint the Task Force Chairperson. Administrative and staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the Agriculture Committee. The Task Force shall meet at the call of the chairperson within 30 days after the members are appointed. Members will serve without compensation.

The Task Force is directed to review state educational standards and curricula to determine if existing standards and curricula:

- provide students with a basic understanding of agriculture
- define agriculture's role in providing food, fiber, fuel and shelter
- identify agriculture's impact and importance to the state's economy

The Task Force must provide a report to the Legislature enumerating their findings on or before November 15, 2012. The report shall identify and make recommendations for improvements to state educational standards and curricula intended to provide K-12 students with a knowledge and understanding of agriculture's importance in Nebraska.

The Agricultural Literacy Task Force sunsets on December 31, 2012.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Sullivan