

**ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB522**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday March 07, 2013  
**Committee On:** Natural Resources  
**Introducer:** Christensen  
**One Liner:** Provide state financial assistance to irrigation districts to compensate water appropriators

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Brasch, Carlson, Dubas, Johnson, Kolowski, Schilz, Smith
<b>Nay:</b>	1	Senator Haar
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Proponents:**

Senator Mark Christensen  
Brad Edgerton

Mike Delka  
Mike Drain  
Dale Helms  
Scott Japp

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District; Nebraska  
State Irrigation Association  
Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska  
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District  
Self  
Self

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**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 522 would require the state to provide financial assistance to irrigation districts affected by the Department of Natural Resources' adoption of a regulation prohibiting surface water appropriators from storing or diverting instream flows in order to comply with an interstate compact.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee amendment, AM 709, contains new language that replaces the original bill. The amendment would require the Department of Natural Resources to provide reasonable compensation for water users affected by a closing notice prohibiting surface water appropriators from storing or diverting natural or instream flows in order to comply with a compact or decree. Payments from the General Fund would be provided to irrigation districts to reasonably compensate affected users.

The amendment further defines reasonable compensation as the equivalent to the current compensation for dry-year leases used by natural resources districts (or the districts' average if the irrigation district is in more than one district), where the irrigation district is located, for the conversion of irrigated acres to dry-land acres for a one-year period.

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Tom Carlson, Chairperson