

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB634

Hearing Date: Friday February 22, 2013
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Davis
One Liner: Adopt the Wildfire Control Act of 2013

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Brasch, Carlson, Dubas, Haar, Johnson, Kolowski, Schilz, Smith

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Al Davis
Scott Josiah
Henry Thorne
Troy Shoemaker
Brad Fiala
Jay Templar
Will Davis
Martin Brammier
Shane Cuttlers
Dave Kadlacek

Richard Endacott
Timothy McCoy
Pete McClymont
Richard Bringelson
John Hansen
Jerry Stilmock

Jason Skold

Opponents:

Neutral:

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Forest Service
City of Long Pine
Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association
Ainsworth Volunteer Fire Department
Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Department
Self
Avoca Fire Department
Nebraska Society of Fire Service Instructors
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts; Upper White Natural Resources Districts; Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District
Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Cattlemen
Self
Nebraska Farmers Union
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association; Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association
The Nature Conservancy

Representing:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 634 would create new language that would do the following:

Create the Wildfire Control Act of 2013;

State legislative findings acknowledging the extent of damage and danger caused by the wildfires in Nebraska;

Direct the Nebraska Forest Service to (1) contract for two air tankers for fighting fires; (2) thin forests to reduce risk; (3) provide expanded training; (4) develop an incident management team to respond or be a resource to help manage large fires; (5) expand the federal excess property programs sponsored by the federal government and Nebraska's forest service; and (6) oversee forest rehabilitation.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment inserts a new section to require the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to develop an incident management team to be a resource for wildfire management. This replaces the requirement in the original bill that the Nebraska Forest Service create the incident management team. The amendment also adds an emergency clause.

Tom Carlson, Chairperson