

**ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB941**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 18, 2014  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Schilz  
**One Liner:** Provide for a dairy growth study

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Bloomfield, Chambers, Hansen, Harr, Johnson, Lathrop, Schilz, Wallman

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**

Senator Ken Schilz  
Rod Johnson  
Bill Thiele  
Anthony Aerts

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska State Dairy Association  
Thiele Dairy/Nebraska State Dairy Association  
Nebraska Farm Bureau

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

John Hansen  
Ben Gotschall

**Representing:**

Nebraska Farmer's Union  
Self

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

LB 941 assigns a duty to the Department of Agriculture to provide a study to the Legislature that addresses a number of enumerated elements, including descriptions of existing dairy production and processing, the marketing opportunities for expanded milk production in Nebraska, and comparisons of milk production and processing in Nebraska, and efforts to recruit dairies and stimulate investment in milk production and processing, between Nebraska and surrounding states.

The report would include any recommendations of the Director regarding actions of state and local governments to stimulate milk production and markets. The report is to be submitted on or before November 15, 2004. The bill inserts legislative intent that the Agriculture Committee receive the report in a public hearing.

Section 2 of the bill expands authorized expenditures from the Commercial Feed Cash Fund to include the costs of preparing the report.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment AM2023 strikes subdivisions ii & iii of subsection 1 d in order to avoid the report conclusions of economic viability of processing facilities that may rely on proprietary information but to retain the purpose that the report discuss ability of Nebraska processing facilities to utilize greater in-state production as an element of the

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assessment of markets for expanded production. The amendment also provides that the report shall also examine marketing opportunities in self processing and direct marketing as an additional element of the market assessment portion of the report. Finally, the amendment provides that any recommendations of the Director of Agriculture for actions to promote growth in dairy production are limited to state level actions.

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Ken Schilz, Chairperson