

# **One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB654**

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**Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz**

**Committee: Agriculture**

**Date of Hearing: February 19, 2013**

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

LB 654 would move the entire state into the brand area.

Over 70 percent of Nebraska is in the brand area representing all or part of 49 counties. The remaining 30 percent of Nebraska does not have an inspection program. This creates significant inconvenience and confusion for individuals who live on the edge of the brand area, as well as additional expense for inspection when going to and from summer grass. It is also a loophole, through which thieves can easily crawl to steal cattle.

LB 654 would also add revenue for Nebraska's beef checkoff, since brand inspectors would be the collectors for cattle in the area which was formerly outside the brand area. At the present time those collections are based purely on the honor system.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Al Davis**