

LEGISLATIVE BILL 477

Approved by the Governor May 7, 2013

Introduced by Carlson, 38.

FOR AN ACT relating to natural resources; to amend sections 2-967 and 2-968, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 2-967, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

2-967 The Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force is created. The Governor shall appoint the members of the task force. The members shall include one surface water project representative from each river basin that has been determined to be fully appropriated pursuant to section 46-714 or 46-720 or designated as overappropriated pursuant to section 46-713 by the Department of Natural Resources; one representative from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources, the office of the Governor, the office of the State Forester, the Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska; two representatives nominated by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts; two representatives nominated by the Nebraska Weed Control Association; one riparian landowner from each of the state's congressional districts; and one representative from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. In addition to such members, any member of the Legislature may serve as a member of the task force at his or her option. For administrative and budgetary purposes only, the task force shall be housed within the Department of Agriculture. This section terminates on June 30, ~~2013~~, 2015.

Sec. 2. Section 2-968, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

2-968 The Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force, in consultation with appropriate federal agencies, shall develop and prioritize vegetation management goals and objectives, analyze the cost-effectiveness of available vegetation treatment, and develop plans and policies to achieve such goals and objectives. Any plan shall utilize the principles of integrated vegetation management and sound science. The task force shall convene within thirty days after the appointment of the members is complete to elect a chairperson and conduct such other business as deemed necessary. The efforts of the task force shall be initially directed toward river basins designated by the Department of Natural Resources as fully appropriated or overappropriated. Task force meetings shall be held in communities within the Republican River and Platte River basins with a final report due to the Governor and the Legislature prior to June 30, ~~2013~~, 2015. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. It is the intent of the Legislature that expenses of the task force not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per fiscal year. This section terminates on June 30, ~~2013~~, 2015.

Sec. 3. Original sections 2-967 and 2-968, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.