

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB359**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 17, 2015  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Johnson  
**One Liner:** Change a fee collected from dog licensees

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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>	6	Senators Chambers, Harr, Johnson, Kolterman, Larson, Riepe
<b>Nay:</b>	1	Senator Bloomfield
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	1	Senator Schilz

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Jerry Johnson  
Clem Disterhaupt  
Judy Varner  
Jason Paine  
Lori Hook  
Lynn Erisman  
Rachel Curry

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Professional Pet Breeders Association  
Nebraska Humane Society  
Hearts United for Animals  
Hearts United for Animals  
Hearts United for Animals  
Hearts United for Animals

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 359 increases a state fee imposed pursuant to 54-603 and collected by political subdivisions that impose a license fee for dogs and cats owned or harbored by persons in the jurisdiction. The fee is currently \$1.00 per animal. LB359 would increase this fee to \$1.25. Fee revenues remitted pursuant to this provision are credited to the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Program Cash fund.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee Amendment (AM1147) amends Sec. 54-627 by inserting two additional revenue items to support the inspection program under the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act. First, the amendment increases the annual license fee established in 54-627(3)(a) for all size categories of licensees under the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act by \$25.

Secondly, the amendment inserts a new subdivision (3)(f) incorporating a modified version of a fee concept proposed in LB389. The inserted subdivision would impose an additional annual license fee element that applies only to commercial categories of licensees of \$2 per animal. The existing schedule of license fees in subdivision (3)(a) currently may be adjusted by the Department following a public hearing provided that the resulting fee for any category may not exceed

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the amount specified by more than \$100. AM1147 revises existing (but renumbered) subdivision (3)(g) so that the fee adjustment process shall be by rule and regulation so that any adjustment shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. The Department is also authorized to adjust the per animal license fee element set forth in new subdivision (3)(f), also by rule and regulation, within a statutory maximum of \$3 per animal.

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Jerry Johnson, Chairperson