

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB544

Chairperson: Senator Jerry Johnson

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2015

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

The purpose of Legislative Bill 544 is to define a seed library for the purposes of exempting the application of Sections 81-2,147.02 and 81-2,147.03 to seed libraries and to establish the Community Gardens Act.

The Community Gardens Act would establish an application process to allow community groups to utilize certain vacant public lands in order to cultivate herbs, fruits, flowers, nuts, honey, poultry for egg production, maple syrup, ornamental or vegetable plants, nursery products, or vegetables. Community gardens are intended to provide a number of benefits for the community, including low-cost and fresh food for people who may be unable to readily afford fresh fruits and vegetables, community involvement, ecological education and the enhancement of urban and suburban environmental quality and community beautification. The Act would also require that the Director of Agriculture establish a community gardens task force during 2015 in order to study, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the establishment and expansion of community gardens, the donation of food from such gardens, and the increasing of any benefits from community gardens to their respective communities.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Burke Harr