

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Agriculture Committee
March 03, 2015

[LB618]

The Committee on Agriculture met at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in Room 2102 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on LB618. Senators present: Jerry Johnson, Chairperson; Mark Kolterman, Vice Chairperson; Dave Bloomfield; Burke Harr; Tyson Larson; Merv Riepe; and Ken Schilz. Senators absent: Ernie Chambers.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Welcome to the Ag Committee. My name is Jerry Johnson, Chairman of the Ag Committee, District 23. First of all, I think everybody here probably knows the procedures but so they know it's on the record, turn off your cell phones or at least turn it to silent. If you're going to testify, bring up a green sheet and have plenty of handouts available, 12 if you have them. If not, the pages will take care of that. We do use lights here. We probably won't need lights today, but if somebody gets over five minutes, we'll probably look at you in a scolding manner and go from there. So with that, I'll introduce the committee members that are here. Senator Riepe to my left; Senator Harr. To my right would be Senator Larson but he's in the testimony chair; Senator Schilz; and Senator Kolterman. To my right is Rick Leonard, research analyst. To my left is Travis Moore, committee clerk. And the page is Jay Linton from Dalton, University of Nebraska student. With that, we will open up the hearing on LB613 (sic). Senator Larson.

SENATOR LARSON: Thank you, Chairman Johnson and members of the Agriculture Committee. My name is Tyson Larson, T-y-s-o-n L-a-r-s-o-n, and I represent Legislative District 40 from O'Neill. I come before you today to introduce LB618 which will allow governing boards the authority for redesignation of districts and changing of at-large members as it pertains to the Nebraska Wheat Board, the Corn Board, and the Dry Bean Commission. The purpose and intent of LB618 is to provide a simple mechanism for these commodity boards and commissions to, as appropriate, by rule and regulation redesignate districts and the number of at-large members to provide for an equitable representation of producers as trends, production, distribution, and availability of members shift geographically across the state. Currently membership districts and at-large positions are defined by statute and necessary changes require legislation. This measure would alleviate any potential burden caused as a result of the current process by eliminating this unnecessary step. This particular concept is not new to production programs, as a similar change was previously made in 2011 to the Grain Sorghum Board under the Grain Sorghum Resources Act. LB618 has been drafted to mirror these changes. Although I do not anticipate testimony from any of the said board or commission representatives, I have been in contact with each entity to ensure their level of comfort regarding this proposal and the future flexibility it will provide for them. Having said that, I urge your support of LB618; and I'm happy to address any questions of the committee. Thank you. [LB618]

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SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. Any questions? Senator Kolterman. [LB618]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Thank you, Tyson. Can you tell me, Senator, is there a reason soybean isn't included? [LB618]

SENATOR LARSON: Soybean Board is federal. [LB618]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: Okay. [LB618]

SENATOR LARSON: So we don't deal with that is my belief. And I'm sure the research analyst could probably give a more in-depth answer but it's federally regulated is my understanding and not in state statute. [LB618]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: Okay. Thank you, Senator. [LB618]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Any other questions? If not, thank you. I'm assuming you'll take a chair and be here to close. [LB618]

SENATOR LARSON: Hopefully I don't have to. [LB618]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Proponents. Seeing none, opponents. Neutral position. Waive. What did I miss here? [LB618]

SENATOR HARR: Did you prioritize this? [LB618]

SENATOR LARSON: I think this is consent calendar. [LB618]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. We will close the hearing. [LB618]

SENATOR LARSON: Thank you. [LB618]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You bet. Thank you. [LB618]