

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB135

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 24, 2017
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Lowe
One Liner: Change and eliminate Department of Agriculture provisions relating to publicity, publications, and personnel

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Albrecht, Blood, Brasch, Chambers, Halloran, Lowe
Nay:	1	Senator Harr
Absent:	1	Senator Krist
Present Not Voting:		

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator John Lowe
Mathew Habrock

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 135 consolidates five statutes assigning duties and authorities to the Department of Agriculture relating to agricultural publicity. As part of, and in support of, the Department's general promotional authorities enumerated in section 81-201, sections 81-2,163 through 81-2,164.03 authorize the Department to gather, compile and publish data concerning the economic resources, industries and conditions of the state.

Revisions to section 81-2,163 revise the Department's authorized activities under this section to reflect current activities of compiling and providing information directly relevant to the agricultural resources and development. The Department's authority under repealed section 81-2,164 to cooperate with the federal government and farm industry associations and individuals to assemble and publish information relating to market conditions for agricultural commodities is partially transferred to new subsection (2) of section 81-2,163 inserted by the bill. The transferred authority omits the market reporting services authorized within the repealed section, limiting to providing general information regarding the state's agricultural production.

Section 2 revises section 81-1,164.03 which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to accept gifts and contributions from federal agencies, farm groups and individuals and to collect fees or charges for publications or services provided to defray costs incurred by the Department. LB 135 expands the authorization to accept gifts to include gifts from any other person.

Lydia Brasch, Chairperson