

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB972

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 28, 2020
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Brandt
One Liner: Change germination seed testing provisions under the Nebraska Seed Law

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Blood, Brandt, Chambers, Halloran, Hansen, B., Lathrop, Moser, Slama
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Brandt
Dr. Kay Kottas

Laura Dell-Haro

John Hansen

Representing:

Introducer
Wittsend Homestead LLC and Nebraska Native Seed & Plant Producers
Nebraska Native Seed & Plan Producers and Little Beaver Nursery & Gardens
Nebraska Farmers Union

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 972 expands the date after germination testing that certain packaged commercial seeds may continue to be sold or offered for sale without the requirement for retesting or relabeling.

Generally, Section 81-2,147.03, the Nebraska Seed Law prohibits the sale of commercial seeds if more than 9 months has elapsed since the germination testing date, but authorizes the Department of Agriculture to designate by rule and regulation seeds that may be sold up to 12 months past the testing date. LB 972 would allow the Department discretion to allow sales of designated seeds up to 15 months after the germination test date.

Additionally, Section 81-2,147.03 currently allows hermetically sealed seeds to be sold up to 36 months after the initial germination testing provided the seed is retested within 12 months prior to sale. LB 972 would allow the sale if the retesting is within 15 months prior to sale.

Steve Halloran, Chairperson