

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB148

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 27, 2021
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Bostelman
One Liner: Transfer certain environmental safety programs to the Department of Environment and Energy

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Aguilar, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, J., Gragert, Groene, Hughes, Moser, Wayne

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Bruce Bostelman
Jim Macy
Bo Botelho
Lee Orton

Representing:

Self
Department of Environmental Energy
DHHS
Nebraska Well Drillers Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Larry Wennkamp

Representing:

Nebraska Rural Water Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB148, brought by Senator Bostelman on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS), transfers certain powers, duties, functions, and obligations for environmental safety and water programs in the areas of proper design, construction, and monitoring of water uses and sustainability of mobile home parks, swimming pools, and recreational camps from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE).

The legislation amends current law to transfer agency responsibilities already being performed by the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE) under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act is also moved to NDEE and the Water Well Standards and Contractor 2019 Practice Board is placed under the Water Well Standards and Contractors Practice Act, with a new conflict of interest provision for board members. The Environmental Safety Cash Fund is created to fund related programs under LB148.

Explanation of amendments:

AM28 to LB148 clarifies that water uses includes wastewater, specifies the identity of the directors and changes the expiration date of licenses to December 31 each year to harmonize language.

Bruce Bostelman, Chairperson