

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB235**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 02, 2021  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Brewer  
**One Liner:** State intent regarding implementation of a meat processing establishment inspection program

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, J., Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Hansen, B.
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Lathrop
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Tom Brewer  
Brenda Masek  
Al Juhnke  
Robert E. Bernt  
Edison McDonald  
John K. Hansen

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
Self  
GC Resolve  
Nebraska Farmers Union

**Opponents:**

Steve Wellman  
Dennis Schaardt  
Ansley Fellers

**Representing:**

Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Self  
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 235 states legislative intent to establish a state meat and poultry inspection program and assigns related implementing duties and authorities to the Director of Agriculture.

**Section-by-Section Description:**

Sec. 1: Amends Section 54-190 to incorporate sections 2 & 3 of LB 235 into the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law.

Sec. 2: Inserts a new section stating legislative intent that the Director of Agriculture begin a cooperative state meat

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inspection program meeting the requirements of cited provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act on or before January 1, 2023. The section authorizes the Director to employ a program director to coordinate all aspects necessary to prepare for and implement a program, including all necessary consultations with USDA to prepare a state performance plan providing meat inspection standards at least equal to those required under the Federal Meat Inspection Act. Additionally, the section directs that on or before December 1, 2021, the director shall prepare a report to the Legislature describing actions and identifying resources necessary to carry out state meat inspection meeting at least equal to standards. Such report shall include any necessary revisions to the Department's statutory authorities and identify a schedule of fees to cash fund the program.

Sec. 3: Inserts a new section that creates a cash fund as a repository of any fee revenues, appropriations, grants, or other public or private funds obtained for purpose of the bill.

Sec. 4: Repealer

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM2045) strikes the original provisions and becomes the bill.

The amendment inserts a new section into the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law stating legislative intent to appropriate \$1 million for FY's 22-23 and 23-24 to fund a pilot program for a cooperative state meat inspection program consistent with cited provisions of federal meat and poultry inspection acts.

The new section directs that the administrator shall be a licensed veterinarian employed by the Department. The Department is directed to establish a program to certify licensed veterinarians to perform inspection activities in participating establishments. The amendment essentially establishes a 2-year pilot program to provide state inspection services for up to 10 meat processing establishments.

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Steve Halloran, Chairperson