

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB324**

---

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 02, 2021  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Brandt  
**One Liner:** Change provisions of the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law

---

**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

---

**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>		

---

**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Tom Brandt  
Jonathan Hladik  
Aunbrea Zeleney  
Michael James Boell  
Bill Rhea  
John Hansen  
Al Davis  
Edison McDonald  
Al Juhnke  
Brian Kurth  
Robert E. Bernt

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Oakland Processing Plant  
Oakland Processing Plant  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Farmers Union  
Sierra Club - Nebraska Chapter  
GC Resolve  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
McLean Beef Inc.  
Self

**Opponents:**

Denni Schardt  
Steve Wellman

**Representing:**

Self  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

---

**Submitted Written Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Paula Peterson  
Justin D. Carter  
Bruce Rieker

**Representing:**

Self  
Nebraska Food Council  
Nebraska Farm Bureau

---

**Opponents:**  
Ansley Fellers

**Representing:**  
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association and the Nebraska  
Association of Meat Processors

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

---

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

LB 324 amends the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law to provide that meat acquired through a herd/animal share arrangement are not a sale of meat for purposes of the Nebraska Meat & Poultry Inspection Law and to authorize the Department of Agriculture to provide assistance to stimulate expansion of meat processing capacity.

Section-by-section summary:

Sec. 1: Amends Section 54-1901 to incorporate sections 10 and 11 of LB 324 within the statutory sections cited as the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.

Sec. 2: Amends Section 54-1902 to insert a new defined term "animal share" to mean an ownership interest obtained in an animal or herd boarded and raised on behalf of owners by a farmer or rancher in which the person with an ownership interest is entitled to a share of the meat. The remainder of this section are Revisor's office revisions to follow current statutory convention to list defined terms in alphabetical order.

Secs. 3-9: Revisor's office revisions substituting the named act for reference to specific statutory sections contained in the act, and other revisions to utilize currently preferred statutory conventions.

Sec. 10: Inserts a new section which exempts meat obtained through animal/herd share arrangements from the requirements of the Nebraska Meat & Poultry Inspection Law. The section sets forth criteria for meat to qualify for this exemption and limitations, documentation and other requirements of farmers or ranchers to market meat through animal share arrangements.

Sec. 11: Inserts a new section creating the Independent Processor Assistance Program. The new section would authorize the Department to disburse funds to assist existing custom exempt processors or small meat processor who are qualified to process meat under a grant of state or federal inspection. Funds disbursed would be for one or more enumerated capital, operating or other expenses incurred by processors to expand physical processing capacity or to qualify for federal inspection.

Sec. 12: Repealer

---

**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee Amendment (AM150) replaces original section 10 pertaining to animal/herd share qualifications. The revised section 10 omits provisions of the original bill that assign duties to the Department of Agriculture, including that the farmer or rancher register with and make an annual report to the Department, and a limitation on the number of animals that can be offered annually through herd share agreements. A requirement is added that a herd share producer shall provide the names and address of animal/herd share owners to the processor.

Additionally, AM150 amends section 11 to add clarification that the Department is authorized to carry out the Independent Processor Assistance Program contingent on funds being made available for the purpose authorized by Section 11.

---

Steve Halloran, Chairperson