

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB406

Hearing Date: Thursday January 28, 2021
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: McDonnell
One Liner: Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Aguilar, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, J., Gragert, Hughes, Wayne
Nay:	1	Senator Moser
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Groene

Oral Testimony:

Proponents: Mike McDonnell John Winkler	Representing: Self Nebraska Association of Resource Districts
Opponents: Richard Grauerholz Shirley Niemeyer	Representing: self self
Neutral: Bradley Pfeiffer	Representing: Ashland Chamber of Commerce

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:	Representing:
Opponents: Scott Smathers Lee Orton Helen Raikes Al Davis Chuck Niemeyer	Representing: Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Nebraska State Irrigation Association self Sierra Club, Nebraska Chapter Ashland City Council
Neutral: Tim Keigher	Representing: Nebraska Airbotics Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB406 was introduced by Senator McDonnell to set up a task force for the purpose of identifying projects to address

mitigating flooding and opportunities for associated economic development.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee vote to adopt Committee Amendment 1092

6 Yes- Senators Bostelman, Aguilar, Gragert, Hughes, J. Cavanaugh, Wayne

1 No- Senator Moser

1 Present Not Voting- Senator Groene

AM1092 replaces LB406.

AM1092 creates the Statewide Tourism and Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability Committee to study strategies to secure Nebraska's future water supply and strengthen Nebraska's flood control infrastructure, while considering economic and recreational opportunities and exploring innovative solutions for the state. AM1092 also states the intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$2 million to carry out the studies.

Sec. 1 States Legislative findings and declarations of the State's water supplies and currently underutilized water resources, the importance of well-planned flood control, and recognizing the economic benefits available through the state's water resources.

Specifies that any studies must not deter ongoing economic activities or fail to protect current investment in the areas under study; and

States that investment in a one-time series of studies should take advantage of previous studies, innovation, approaches, and new technologies to find solutions across Nebraska.

Sec. 2 Creates the Statewide Tourism And Recreational Water Access and Resources Sustainability Special Committee of the Legislature for purposes of overseeing the studies. Committee members will be:

the Speaker of the Legislature as chair; Chairperson of the Natural Resource Committee of the Legislature; One member of the Appropriations Committee; and at least four other members of the Legislature, appointed by the executive board, and representing legislative districts comprising portions of the areas under study or who otherwise have knowledge of the areas;

The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall provide staff for the committee and additional staff may be hired.

The Committee shall have power to contract, subject to approval by the Executive board, to hire staff, to enter into contracts for consulting, engineering and development studies two members appointed from each Congressional district.

The study of the Lower Platte River shall not include any dam on a Platte River channel, but may include infrastructure that maintains the integrity of the main channel and study tributaries.

The studies regarding Lake McConaughy in Keith County and Lewis and Clark Lake in Knox County shall evaluate the outcome and economic benefits of proposed developments and improvements to residents, local region, and state tourism. Socioeconomic conditions, recreation and tourism opportunities and investment in region of Knox County that borders and includes Lewis and Clark Lake and Niobrara State Park.

The committee shall endeavor to complete each study on or before December 31, 2021 but have it completed no later than December 31, 2022.

Sec. 3 Emergency clause.

Oral Testimony:

Proponent

Senator McDonnell, Introducer

John Winkler, Nebraska Association of Resource Districts

Mark Simpson, Knox County

Mike Hilgers, Self

Deb Schilz, Keith County Visitors Committee

Kelly Hanvey, Knox County Development Agency

Jessop Adams, Keith County Planning and Zoning

Corey Crandall, Keith County Commissioner

Lane Anderson, Keith County Commissioner

Karla Scott, Keith County Chamber

Jeff Davis, BNSF Railway

Patrick Liska, Knox County Supervisor

Kevin Barta, Knox County Road Department

Kristal Stoner, Audubon Society

Written Testimony:

Proponent

Angela Janda-Craig, Nebraska Game and Parks

Neutral

Jeff Buettner, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

Jay Ferris, Nebraska Farm Bureau

Bruce Bostelman, Chairperson