

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB166

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 05, 2013
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Schilz
One Liner: Change labeling requirements for lawn and turf seed containers

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Bloomfield, Chambers, Hansen, Harr, Johnson, Lathrop, Schilz, Wallman

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Ken Schilz
Alice Licht
Brian Herrington

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and American Seed Trade Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 166 provides an additional labeling option for packaged mixtures of cool season lawn and turf seed regarding the term of validity of the germination rate claim. Section 81-2,147.02 of the Nebraska Seed Law prescribes labeling requirements for agricultural, vegetable and flower seeds, including the germination rate of the seed as ascertained by testing. Currently, subsection (5) of Section 81-2,147.02 requires that packages of lawn and turf seed mixtures disclose the date of testing for the determination of germination rate or an expiration date (in Nebraska, a date 12 months after testing date when product if not retested and relabeled would be technically deemed mislabeled and by law unsellable).

LB 166 would insert a new subdivision governing the label germination rate declarations for cool season lawn and turf grass seed and mixtures. For such seeds, the label would have the option of disclosing the date of germination test for each seed component, or the oldest test date of the seed or any seed component, or a sell by date not later than 18 months from the date of the germination test excluding the month of testing.

Explanation of amendments:

Explanation of Committee amendments, if any:

The committee amendment changes the sell-by date to 15 months from the date of the germination test to conform with

the sell-by labeling recommendation of the Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO). The amendment also adds the e-clause.

Ken Schilz, Chairperson