

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1005

Chairperson: Senator Tom Carlson

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 26, 2014

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB1005 amends Chapter 46 to eliminate the Interrelated Water Board and replace it with the Surface Water and Ground Water Review Board.

The Surface Water and Ground Water Review Board shall consist of the following members:

The Director of Natural Resources, the chairperson of the Game and Parks Commission, and the following members appointed by the Governor: A member of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board, one representative from each of municipalities, natural resources districts, and irrigators, and a certified hydrologist. The Governor shall appoint three additional members who shall have a minimum of seven years water-related experience, one from each congressional district.

The Surface Water and Ground Water Review Board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, including a standard of review and procedures for unified management and development of surface water and ground water policy that are consistent with balancing multiple interests in sustained water usage in perpetuity. Standards and review shall be applicable to all water-related decisions, including integrated management plans and interstate compacts and decrees in the State of Nebraska.

The Board shall hold public hearings consistent with the Open Meetings Act prior to adopting a final plan on any integrated management plan within a natural resources districts or any interstate water compact or decree. The Board shall make an annual report and recommendation to the Legislature on state water priorities, policy, and funding by December 15 of each year.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bill Avery