

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB353

Chairperson: Senator Tom Carlson

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2013

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

Legislative Bill 353 amends Section 2-3228(1)(f) to restrict the rule or regulation authority of Natural Resources Districts (NRDs). The bill would clarify that no NRD would have the power to promulgate any rule or regulation requiring the use of groundwater irrigation to maintain the right to irrigate those acres.

The bill seeks to prohibit current rules in a NRD that currently requires that to keep a groundwater allocation on irrigated acres, those acres will have to be irrigated two out of 10 years, forcing the retirement of certified irrigated acres. This may encourage the costly and inefficient irrigation of acres, such as corner acres that a pivot irrigation system does not reach, just to keep the allocation of water for those acres.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mark Christensen