

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB344

Hearing Date: Friday March 06, 2015
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Kolowski
One Liner: Provide natural resources districts with the power to issue general obligation bonds

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

Vote Results:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Aye: | 5 | Senators Hughes, Johnson, Kolowski, McCollister, Schilz |
| Nay: | 2 | Senators Lindstrom, Schnoor |
| Absent: | | |
| Present Not Voting: | 1 | Senator Friesen |

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rick Kolowski
John Winkler

John Miyoshi

John Hansen

Opponents:

Doug Kagan
Scott Japp
Mick Mines
Shawn Melotz
Tyler Mohr

Neutral:

Representing:

Introducer
Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District;
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Lower Platte North Natural Resources District;
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Nebraska Farmers Union

Representing:

Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom
Self
Platte Valley Preservation Association
Papio Valley Preservation Association
Self

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 344 would authorize natural resources districts to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of financing non-revenue-producing water projects authorized by law.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2112 replaces the original bill and would do the following:

* Authorize natural resources districts (NRDs) to issue general obligation bonds for financing part of the cost of non-revenue producing projects authorized by law under the following circumstances:

- two-thirds of the NRD's board of directors have approved the issuance of such bonds, which are to be retired using the NRD's ad valorem tax revenue;

- the NRD has submitted an application for funding from the Water Sustainability Fund;
 - such application is eligible for funding as determined by the director of the Department of Natural Resources;
 - the NRD has a commitment for approval of matching funds from other governmental entities or other sources prior to the issuance of bonds;
 - the annual tax levied to pay the bond debt will not exceed the NRD's tax levy limitation.
- * If such a project is not selected for funding from the Water Sustainability Fund, or is not approved for the amount requested, the NRD may issue bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed sixty percent of the project cost.
- * If such project is selected for funding, the NRD may issue bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed forty percent of the project cost.
- * Bonds must be issued within four years from the date the project application is selected or not selected for funding.
- * Set a sunset date of December 31, 2025.

Ken Schilz, Chairperson