

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB404

Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 27, 2015

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

LB404 requires the Department of Natural Resources to post notice on its website before approving any application for appropriation of public waters in Nebraska. The bill allows certain public water providers or managers to submit a written, expert analysis within 60 days of the last public notice of the application, explaining specifically why granting the application would diminish the amount of water available to them and would be contrary to the public interest. Before approving the application, the department would offer the public water providers or manager the opportunity for a public hearing to present evidence of the specific public interest concerns in their written analysis. The public water provider or manager may waive the hearing, and by doing so they would also waive the right to appeal a final order of the department.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Al Davis