

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2024

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1258

Chairperson: Senator Bruce Bostelman

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 15, 2024

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

According to research done at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, pediatric cancer rates in Nebraska are among the five highest in the United States. Pediatric cancer rates have been linked to nitrate contaminated groundwater.

LB 1258 is an effort to further identify and reduce nitrate contamination in groundwater near CAFOs, or concentrated animal feeding operations, an identified source of nitrate contamination.

LB 1258 proposes additional monitoring wells and reporting the results to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and to the local Natural Resources District. The Department is given authority to deny applications without monitoring wells included. Existing animal feeding operations located within a groundwater management area would be required to install groundwater monitoring wells if they do not already exist.

The language of LB 1258 is patterned after existing Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy regulatory language with the addition of the monitor wells requirement.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Machaela Cavanaugh