

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1243

Hearing Date: Thursday February 22, 2024
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: McDonnell
One Liner: Adopt the Wildland Fire Response Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Conrad, Halloran, Hunt, Lowe, Sanders
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Raybould
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Mike McDonnell
Scott Cordes
Pat Gould
Kenny Krause

Wesley Hock
Devin Lovgren
Steve Oseka
John Bomar
Jerry Stilmock

Opponents:

Neutral:

John Erixson

Representing:

Opening Presenter
State Fire Marshal Agency
Chadron Volunteer Fire Department
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association,
Nebraska State Fire Chiefs Association, Fairbury
Rural Fire Department
Holbrook Fire Department
Fairbury Rural Fire Department
Platte Valley - Twin Loup Task Force
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association,
Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association, Nebraska
Association of Resources Districts

Representing:

Representing:

Self

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

This bill would create the Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (WIRAT) in the office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM).

Section 1 of the bill contains the title of the act.

Section 2 of the bill creates the WIRAT program within the State Fire Marshal's office, states its mission, and provides for assistance to WIRAT from the Adjutant General and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Section 3 provides that the State Fire Marshal would serve as coordinator of WIRAT and assigns the SFM related duties.

Section 4 provides for squad leaders and related duties and powers for them.

Section 5 provides for the SFM to compensate squad leaders while serving in their WIRAT capacity.

Section 6 authorizes WIRAT to rent equipment needed for a wildland fire incident.

Section 7 provides permissive rulemaking authority to the SFM to carry out the provisions of the act.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2620

This amendment adds reference to the title of the act in a statute setting out duties of the State Fire Marshal.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson