

# **One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB263**

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**Chairperson: Senator Steve Halloran**

**Committee: Agriculture**

**Date of Hearing: February 21, 2023**

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

LB 263 amends the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act to align with the United States Department of Agriculture's Final Rule implementing the hemp provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act as amended by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). The Final Rule was published January 19, 2021. LB 263 would make the following specific revisions:

1. Increasing the negligence threshold from 0.5% to 1.0%.
2. Allowing the use of performance-based sampling to be set out in the State Plan.
3. Increasing the harvest window from 15 to 30 days.
4. Allowing remediation options for hemp testing.
5. Codifying options for destruction of hemp exceeding the acceptable THC level,

The bill also clarifies record keeping and notification requirements and removes a delinquent fee to facilitate the administration of the program. Also, LB 263 changes a requirement for the Nebraska Hemp Commission to meet at least annually instead of quarterly. Section 2-5701, an obsolete provision for licensing hemp cultivation replaced by the Hemp Farming Act, is repealed and references to that provision are deleted.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Steve Halloran, Chairperson**

## **Agriculture Committee**