

Heidemann Bill Seeks to Roll Back Taxes on Farmland

First District State Senator Lavon Heidemann introduced legislation last week that seeks to decrease the valuation of agricultural land for school taxation purposes.

Under the bill – LB 1061 – the valuation would decrease from 75-percent to 65-percent over a five-year period. The valuation would remain at 75-percent for other political subdivisions, such as counties and natural resources districts.

Senator Heidemann explains the rationale behind his proposal. (play audio :38)

There are more “non-equalized” school districts in the state of Nebraska in recent years. Those are school districts that do not qualify for state equalization aid because their resources – primarily as a result of land valuation in the district – are greater than their needs. Heidemann calls the increase in the number of non-equalized districts “alarming.” (play audio :25)

Heidemann says his legislation would reverse the trend and allow some districts to regain their equalization status.

LB 1061 was introduced last week in the legislature’s Revenue Committee.