

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 374

Introduced by Ibach, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the availability of healthy and affordable food choices in Nebraska communities. This study shall review research articles and other literature on the topic of availability of healthy and affordable food choices in Nebraska communities to evaluate overall food access in Nebraska and to inform public policy discussions on this topic. The study shall also identify potential public policy interventions that would increase access to and utilization of healthy food choices.

The study shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) Reviewing alternative methodologies for defining low-grocery-access areas, as the United States Department of Agriculture definition of low-income and low-access areas, also known as food deserts, does not accurately identify the need for more food choices in every community, especially in rural areas;

(2) Analyzing federal, state, and local efforts to provide healthy and affordable food to low-income and low-access areas;

(3) Identifying resources and incentives the state may use to combat low access to food;

(4) Identifying factors that limit access to healthy and affordable food choices within rural and urban communities and demographic groups;

(5) Analyzing barriers and challenges for small locally owned grocery stores to provide healthy food options;

(6) Reviewing current economic development policies that enable food retailers to improve or expand healthy food options and identify any gaps in access to healthy food options;

(7) Evaluating mechanisms to develop markets and distribution of locally

produced foods to meet the need for healthy and affordable food;

- (8) Evaluating how food insecurity affects Nebraska families; and
- (9) Evaluating the benefits of access to healthy and affordable food.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.