

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 176

Introduced by Ballard, 21.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the provisions of the Nebraska Right to Farm Act in comparison to similar laws in other states who rely on agriculture and recruitment of agriculture-related businesses as a significant portion of their economy.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, agriculture, food, and related industries contributed over \$1.2 trillion to the United States gross domestic product in 2021 and \$164.7 billion of that amount is a direct output from farms. In addition, the agricultural and food sectors provide over 21 million full-time and part-time jobs, with direct on-farm employment accounting for about 2.6 million jobs. In Nebraska, agriculture accounts for approximately one-third of business sales, over twenty percent of the gross state product, and nearly twenty-five percent of jobs. Ninety-two percent of Nebraska's total land area is utilized by farms and ranches and almost half of Nebraska's farms have some type of livestock or poultry operation.

The interim study shall include, but need not be limited to, a review of the need for and utility of legislation to strengthen the Nebraska Right to Farm Act in order to:

(1) Protect businesses and families who rely on Nebraska's vital agricultural industry and associated activities;

(2) Consider what effect advancements in technology, best practices for agricultural operations, and regulatory oversight, have had on reducing nuisances and other impacts for those living near an agricultural operation;

(3) Reduce the risk of frivolous or anti-agriculture lawsuits while preserving the ability to obtain relief for actual harm to residents; and

(4) Ensure Nebraska's laws allow the state to compete with other states for agriculture-related businesses and economic development opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.