

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1008**

Final Reading

Introduced by Haar, 21.

Read first time January 21, 2014

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to climate assessment; to amend section 2-4902,  
2 Revised Statutes Supplement, 2013; to change duties of  
3 the Climate Assessment Response Committee; and to repeal  
4 the original section.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1. Section 2-4902, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
2   2013, is amended to read:

3                   2-4902 The Climate Assessment Response Committee shall:

4                   (1) Provide timely and systematic data collection,  
5   analysis, and dissemination of information about drought and other  
6   severe climate occurrences to the Governor and to other interested  
7   persons;

8                   (2) Provide the Governor and other interested persons  
9   with information and advice relevant to requests for federal disaster  
10   declarations and to the use of funds and other types of assistance  
11   available to the state because of such declarations;

12                   (3) Establish criteria for startup and shutdown of  
13   various assessment and response activities by state and federal  
14   agencies during drought and other climate-related emergencies;

15                   (4) Provide an organizational structure that assures  
16   information flow and defines the duties and responsibilities of all  
17   agencies during times of drought and climate-related emergencies;

18                   (5) Maintain a current inventory of state and federal  
19   agency responsibilities in assessing and responding to drought and  
20   other climate-related emergencies;

21                   (6) Provide a mechanism for the improvement of methods of  
22   assessing impacts of drought on agriculture and industry;

23                   (7) Provide such other coordination and communication  
24   among federal and state agencies as is deemed appropriate by such  
25   committee;

1                   (8) Provide the Governor and other interested persons  
2 with information and research on the impacts of cyclical climate  
3 change in Nebraska, including impacts on physical, ecological, and  
4 economic areas, and attempt to anticipate the unintended consequences  
5 of climate adaptation and mitigation;

6                   (9) Facilitate communication between stakeholders and the  
7 state about cyclical climate change impacts and response strategies;

8                   ~~(10)(a) By September 1, 2014, prepare an initial report~~  
9 ~~on cyclical climate change in Nebraska which includes a synthesis and~~  
10 ~~assessment of the state of knowledge on: Historical climate~~  
11 ~~variability and change; climate projections; and possible impacts to~~  
12 ~~key sectors of the state such as agriculture, water, wildlife,~~  
13 ~~ecosystems, forests, and outdoor recreation. The report shall include~~  
14 ~~key points and a summary of the findings; and~~

15                   ~~(b)-(10) By December 1, 2014, review such initial report~~  
16 ~~and provide a final report on cyclical climate change in Nebraska to~~  
17 ~~the Governor and electronically to the Legislature which includes key~~  
18 ~~points, overarching recommendations, and options that emerge from the~~  
19 ~~initial report; other reports and recommendations submitted to the~~  
20 ~~Climate Assessment Response Committee; and~~

21                   (11) Perform such other climate-related assessment and  
22 response functions as are desired by the Governor.

23                   Sec. 2. Original section 2-4902, Revised Statutes  
24 Supplement, 2013, is repealed.