

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 259

Introduced by Armendariz, 18; Storer, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the feasibility, benefits, and framework for establishing a high school agriculture student exchange program within Nebraska modeled after foreign student exchange programs to foster cross-regional learning, cultural exchange, and deeper appreciation for Nebraska's agricultural heritage and rural life.

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

(1) The feasibility and structure of such a program, including exchange duration, school credit recognition, and housing arrangements;

(2) The potential for collaboration with local school districts, the State Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska, including the state 4-H program, and Future Farmers of America;

(3) The benefits to student participants, host communities, and Nebraska's agricultural education system;

(4) Potential models, including urban-to-rural exchanges within Nebraska, as well as interstate exchanges with other agricultural regions;

(5) Considerations to ensure student participation from low-income urban areas; and

(6) Potential funding sources, including state appropriations, federal grants, and private sponsorships.

In conducting this interim study, the Education Committee of the Legislature may confer with other standing committees of the Legislature, state agencies, and other stakeholders.

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

1. That the Education 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.