

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 407

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine revitalization of urban areas and how cities and villages may utilize the role of culture as a driver of economic development, workforce attraction, tourism, and community revitalization in Nebraska. The study shall evaluate whether Nebraska should utilize cultural development initiatives as an additional method of revitalization and development, similar to the European Union initiative, the European Capital of Culture.

This study shall assess the feasibility of establishing one or more pilot cultural districts or a statewide cultural capital designation, with a focus on scaling economic and community impact in historically underserved communities.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A determination on whether Nebraska should establish a rotating statewide cultural designation similar to the European Capital of Culture and the requirements for implementation of such a designation, including sustainable funding levels and sources, selection criteria and an application process, governance and oversight structure, and expected economic and social return on investment of such initiative;

(2) An examination of how cultural districts may align with broader community development strategies, including housing development and stabilization efforts, transportation and transit access, small business incubation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, and workforce development and talent attraction initiatives;

(3) An examination of the extent to which cultural development initiatives, including creative districts, benefit low-income communities and Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other historically underserved populations, the

effect such initiatives have on urban versus rural communities, and strategies to ensure equitable distribution of cultural investment and outcomes;

(4) An examination of cultural development initiatives utilized currently in Nebraska, such as creative districts, and the overall economic impact of such districts and how such economic impact compares to alternative models used in other states or internationally;

(5) An analysis of the current structure and outcomes of Nebraska's certified creative districts, a comparison to other national and international cultural development models, and an evaluation of how cultural investment can function as a tool for public safety, youth engagement, economic mobility, and long-term community stabilization; and

(6) An examination of best practices, governance structures, funding mechanisms, and measurable outcomes associated with cultural development initiatives.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.