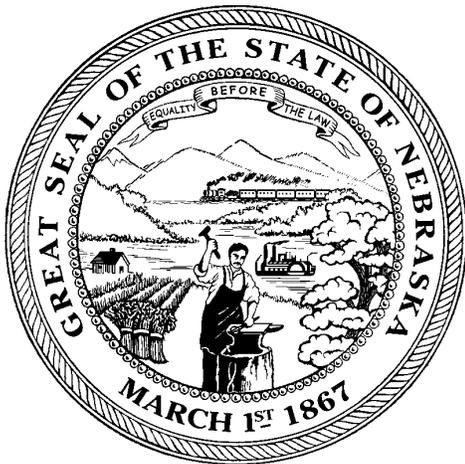


**INTERIM  
STUDY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SESSION**

**2016**



03-02-01-2016



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2016**

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- LR406 Interim study to examine issues surrounding the blending of various fuels in Nebraska and the impact of right to blend laws in other states  
Natural Resources
- LR412 Interim study to improve communication access for movie theaters in Nebraska to ensure all persons can fully experience the movie theater experience  
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- LR430 Interim study to examine whether the Nebraska Banking Act should be updated  
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- LR431 Interim study to examine whether the Securities Act of Nebraska should be updated  
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- LR439 Interim study to examine the use of tax-increment financing by municipalities for residential development  
Urban Affairs
- LR452 Interim study to establish a study group to examine issues surrounding the need to provide financial assistance for home accessibility modifications for people with disabilities, including the elderly  
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- LR455 Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee to examine issues related to the impacts of climate change on the State of Nebraska  
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- LR463 Interim study to examine ways to improve the coverage of hearing aid costs for Nebraska families  
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- LR464 Interim study to examine the effects of the use of tax-increment financing by municipalities  
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- LR483 Interim study to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board  
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- LR496 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the  
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- LR498 Interim study to examine the Nebraska Right to Farm Act  
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- LR499 Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the  
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- LR502 Interim study to examine the use of revolving funds within the  
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- LR504 Interim study to examine the numerous deadlines involved in the  
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- LR506 Interim study to examine the efficacy of testing and monitoring  
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- LR546 Interim study to examine whether Nebraska's occupational licensing boards are exposed to liability under antitrust laws  
Judiciary
- LR547 Create the Tribal Economic Development Committee of the Legislature to conduct a study examining the policy tools available to the Legislature to enhance economic development for the Native American population of Nebraska  
Special Committee
- LR548 Interim study to examine issues surrounding youth tobacco use  
Health and Human Services

- LR549 Interim study to examine issues relating to utilization of the U visa program in Nebraska  
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- LR550 Interim study to examine the feasibility of creating a common data collection site for county jail information necessary to receive funding under the County Justice Reinvestment Grant Program  
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- LR567 Interim study to examine and review the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay and the need for additional funding for law enforcement  
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- LR568 Interim study to examine the membership, role, and duties of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council  
Judiciary
- LR569 Interim study to examine the means available to fund the grant program established pursuant to the Livestock Growth Act  
Agriculture
- LR570 Interim study to review the duties and authorities of the Dept. of Agriculture to establish an agriculture promotion and development program  
Agriculture

- LR571 Interim study to examine local political subdivision retirement plans for public employees  
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- LR572 Interim study to examine issues surrounding the Division of Veterans' Homes of the Dept. of Health and Human Services and wait times for admission to the veterans' homes system  
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- LR574 Interim study to examine aspects of Nebraska's medicaid program that include share of cost or resource spend down components  
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Judiciary
- LR577 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee  
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- LR578 Interim study to examine the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act  
Judiciary
- LR579 Interim study to examine issues relating to solar energy development  
Natural Resources
- LR580 Interim study to examine the Dept. of Health and Human Services' policies for dealing with disallowances and audit exceptions by the federal government which have resulted in large fines and having to return money to the federal government  
Appropriations
- LR581 Interim study to examine the positive and negative effects of federal education funding if Nebraska would choose not to accept federal funds that are tied to federal mandates  
Education

- LR582 Interim study to examine how, through better coordination of health services, the state can better assist low-income individuals currently without insurance  
Health and Human Services
- LR583 Interim study to examine administrative law judges in Nebraska  
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- LR584 Interim study to examine the possibility of providing direct and statewide funding for legal representation in order to provide more equitable access to civil justice in Nebraska  
Judiciary
- LR586 Interim study to examine the effects of transferring public school employees from the system of district-based health insurance plans to the Nebraska State Insurance Program  
Education
- LR587 Interim study to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the Education Committee  
Education
- LR588 Interim study to determine best practices in drafting tax legislation and determining the fiscal impact of tax policies  
Appropriations
- LR589 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee  
Judiciary
- LR590 Interim study to examine options to offer incentives to health care professionals who provide free care and services to qualified recipients  
Health and Human Services
- LR591 Interim study to examine and make recommendations on improving health care coverage plans available to Nebraska small businesses with fifty or less employees  
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Revenue
- LR593 Interim study to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of real and personal property taxes  
Revenue

- LR594 Interim study to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of state and local sales and use taxes and any other miscellaneous taxes  
Revenue
- LR595 Interim study to examine the topic of food deserts and issues relating to access to healthy food in Nebraska  
Agriculture
- LR596 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- LR597 Interim study to examine financing mechanisms available to various political subdivisions to issue bonds or assume future payment obligations without a direct vote of taxpayers  
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- LR598 Interim study to examine issues related to allowing owners and independent repair persons access to software and codes that will allow them to repair electronic devices  
Agriculture
- LR599 Interim study to review the administrative rate review processes currently conducted by the Public Service Commission  
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR600 Interim study to examine alternatives for valuing agricultural land for property tax purposes  
Revenue
- LR601 Review present facilities and determine the needs and options for developing a regional certified crime laboratory in the Omaha area  
Special Committee
- LR602 Interim study to examine existing barriers to the delivery of health care services through telehealth technologies in Nebraska  
Health and Human Services
- LR603 Interim study to examine the issues faced by residents of mobile home communities  
Health and Human Services
- LR604 Interim study to examine inconsistencies in the practices utilized by county assessors in determining agricultural land value  
Revenue

- LR605 Interim study to examine issues relating to urban redevelopment  
Urban Affairs
- LR612 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the  
Agriculture Committee  
Agriculture

## REFERENCING AND STUDY PROCESS

### Rule 4, Section 3

As a general practice, the Executive Board will refer interim study resolutions to the appropriate committees based upon subject-matter jurisdiction.

The Executive Board may, on its own behalf, conduct interim studies or create select interim committees to do so. Depending upon the availability of staff resources, subject-matter jurisdiction, and legislator interest, the Executive Board may establish a select committee to undertake the study.

The Executive Board shall retain its traditional prerogatives to consider and refer study proposals arising from extraordinary circumstances after the deadlines.

Legislative rules require study resolutions be prioritized by the chairperson of the committee to which they are referred, and a report on those priorities shall be filed with the Clerk.

Rule 4, Section 3(g) of the Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature requires that on or before December 1 of each year, each standing and select interim committee file a report on the disposition of the study resolutions referred to them.

(The following referral list reflects the committee prioritization of the resolutions referred to them.)

## INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE REFERRALS

### Committee Priority Designations

**Agriculture:** Johnson (C), Kolterman (VC), Bloomfield, Chambers, Harr, B., Larson, Riepe, Schilz

- LR498 Interim study to examine the Nebraska Right to Farm Act  
Agriculture
- LR536 Interim study to complete the work of the LR 309 committee which investigated ways to avoid and mitigate conflicts arising from herbicide drift damage to sensitive crops  
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Agriculture
- LR570 Interim study to review the duties and authorities of the Dept. of Agriculture to establish an agriculture promotion and development program  
Agriculture
- LR612 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee  
Agriculture
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Agriculture
- LR573 Interim study to examine the historic and present state of industrial hemp as an alternative crop in Nebraska and its future potential  
Agriculture
- LR598 Interim study to examine issues related to allowing owners and independent repair persons access to software and codes that will allow them to repair electronic devices  
Agriculture

**Appropriations:** Mello (C), Hilkemann (VC), Bolz, Cook, Haar, K., Kintner, Kuehn, Stinner, Watermeier

- LR502 Interim study to examine the use of revolving funds within the Dept. of Administrative Services  
Appropriations
- LR580 Interim study to examine the Dept. of Health and Human Services' policies for dealing with disallowances and audit exceptions by the federal government which have resulted in large fines and having to return money to the federal government  
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Appropriations
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- LR552 Interim study to develop a plan to address funding and budgetary issues relating to climate change  
Appropriations
- LR509 Interim study to examine the funding history, programs, and services offered by the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska  
Appropriations
- LR577 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee  
Appropriations

**Banking, Commerce and Insurance:** Scheer (C), Williams (VC), Campbell, Craighead, Fox, Gloor, Lindstrom, Schumacher

- LR430 Interim study to examine whether the Nebraska Banking Act should be updated  
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR431 Interim study to examine whether the Securities Act of Nebraska should be updated  
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR493 Interim study to examine whether the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act should be updated  
Banking, Commerce and Insurance

- LR508 Interim study to examine possible changes to the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act  
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- LR521 Interim study to examine the business practices of pharmacy benefit managers as those practices relate to such managers' arrangements with private entities, insurers, pharmacies, and the State of Nebraska  
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- LR554 Interim study to examine information regarding air ambulance costs  
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR591 Interim study to examine and make recommendations on improving health care coverage plans available to Nebraska small businesses with fifty or less employees  
Banking, Commerce and Insurance

**Business and Labor:** Harr, B. (C), Bloomfield (VC), Chambers, Crawford, Ebke, Howard, Johnson

- LR512 Interim study to examine the Commission of Industrial Relations  
Business and Labor
- LR533 Interim study to examine promoting career education and training that can lead to job readiness for middle-skill jobs  
Business and Labor
- LR520 Interim study to provide a review of the administration and enforcement of the Employee Classification Act by the Dept. of Labor  
Business and Labor
- LR556 Interim study to examine the conveyances currently covered by the Conveyance Safety Act  
Business and Labor

**Education:** Sullivan (C), Kolowski (VC), Baker, Groene, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Schnoor

- LR587 Interim study to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the Education Committee  
Education
- LR564 Interim study to examine education in Nebraska  
Education

- LR586 Interim study to examine the effects of transferring public school employees from the system of district-based health insurance plans to the Nebraska State Insurance Program  
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- LR559 Interim study to examine the feasibility and impact of implementing the Civics Education Initiative in Nebraska through legislation or in partnership with the State Board of Education  
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- LR581 Interim study to examine the positive and negative effects of federal education funding if Nebraska would choose not to accept federal funds that are tied to federal mandates  
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**General Affairs:** Larson (C), Coash (VC), Hansen, Hughes, Kolterman, McCollister, Riepe, Schilz

- LR541 Interim study to examine the economic benefits of keno  
General Affairs
- LR542 Interim study to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the General Affairs Committee  
General Affairs
- LR567 Interim study to examine and review the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay and the need for additional funding for law enforcement  
General Affairs

**Government, Military and Veterans Affairs:** Murante (C), Garrett (VC), Bloomfield, Craighead, Groene, Hansen, Larson, McCoy

- LR504 Interim study to examine the numerous deadlines involved in the election process  
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- LR530 Interim study to examine the voting processes and procedures available for citizens who are hospitalized or who reside in nursing homes or extended care facilities  
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- LR596 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
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**Health and Human Services:** Campbell (C), Howard (VC), Baker, Crawford, Fox, Kolterman, Riepe

- LR529 Interim study to examine the ongoing implementation of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 and related state law and policy  
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- LR510 Interim study to examine how to best integrate palliative care into the overall medical care structure of our health care system  
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- LR499 Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee  
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**Judiciary:** Seiler (C), Coash (VC), Chambers, Ebke, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Williams

- LR506 Interim study to examine the efficacy of testing and monitoring programs, particularly the 24/7 sobriety program, in reducing recidivism for driving under the influence and controlled substance offenses  
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- LR584 Interim study to examine the possibility of providing direct and statewide funding for legal representation in order to provide more equitable access to civil justice in Nebraska  
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LR589 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee  
Judiciary

**Natural Resources:** Schilz (C), Friesen (VC), Hughes, Johnson, Kolowski, Lindstrom, McCollister, Schnoor

LR406 Interim study to examine issues surrounding the blending of various fuels in Nebraska and the impact of right to blend laws in other states  
Natural Resources

LR579 Interim study to examine issues relating to solar energy development  
Natural Resources

**Nebraska Retirement Systems:** Kolterman (C), Davis (VC), Groene, Kolowski, Lindstrom, Mello

LR483 Interim study to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board  
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LR571 Interim study to examine local political subdivision retirement plans for public employees  
Nebraska Retirement Systems

LR534 Interim study to examine the extent that state funds are invested in fossil fuels and clean energy, and the feasibility of divestment consistent with the state's fiduciary responsibilities  
Nebraska Retirement Systems

**Revenue:** Gloor (C), Schumacher (VC), Brasch, Davis, Harr, B., Scheer, Smith, Sullivan

LR511 Interim study to examine existing law governing the collection of sales and use tax on remote sales  
Revenue

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Revenue
- LR594 Interim study to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of state and local sales and use taxes and any other miscellaneous taxes  
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**Transportation and Telecommunications:** Smith (C), Brasch (VC), Davis, Friesen, Garrett, McCoy, Murante, Seiler

- LR538 Interim study to examine telecommunication services in Nebraska  
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR519 Interim study to examine whether the One-Call Notification System Act should be updated  
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR539 Interim study to undertake a study of the jurisdiction and structure of the Nebraska Public Service Commission  
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR599 Interim study to review the administrative rate review processes currently conducted by the Public Service Commission  
Transportation and Telecommunications

**Urban Affairs:** Crawford (C), McCollister (VC), Coash, Ebke, Hansen, Howard, Hughes

- LR490 Interim study to examine the enforcement of state and local building codes  
Urban Affairs
- LR439 Interim study to examine the use of tax-increment financing by municipalities for residential development  
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- LR526 Interim study to examine municipal classifications  
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- LR495 Interim study to examine state law governing cities of the second class and villages in Chapter 17 of the Nebraska statutes  
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- LR496 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee  
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**RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED  
DURING THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
CALLING FOR STUDIES BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Special Committee to Examine Issues Related to the Impacts of Climate Change:** Haar, K., Kuehn, Larson, Mello, Pansing Brooks, Schilz, Stinner

LR455 Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee to examine issues related to the impacts of climate change on the State of Nebraska  
Special Committee

**Tribal Economic Development Committee:** Larson, Lindstrom, Mello, Schilz, Smith

LR547 Create the Tribal Economic Development Committee of the Legislature to conduct a study examining the policy tools available to the Legislature to enhance economic development for the Native American population of Nebraska  
Special Committee

**Special Committee to Consider Accredited Crime Laboratory on the UNMC Campus:** Chambers, Hilkemann, Kolowski, McCollister, Mello, Seiler, Williams

LR601 Review present facilities and determine the needs and options for developing a regional certified crime laboratory in the Omaha area  
Special Committee

## INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 397.** Introduced by Gloor, 35; Campbell, 25.

**PURPOSE:** Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a model of health care services delivery that puts the patient at the center of care in new ways that require informed joint decisionmaking on medical decisions with a focus on preventive care and management of chronic diseases.

In Nebraska, PCMH has been the focus of legislative efforts since 2009 and of the medical community since 2008. LR22 (2015) studied the multi-year, ongoing work to improve the health of Nebraskans through improved health care services delivery.

It is the purpose of this resolution for the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature to conduct an interim study to monitor this health care transformation in Nebraska, to examine the progress of the Nebraska PCMH Participation Agreement, and to provide a legislative forum for discussion and collaboration among the many stakeholders in the health care and health insurance industries.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 406.** Introduced by Gloor, 35.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study issues surrounding the blending of various fuels in Nebraska and the impact of right to blend laws in other states. The study shall examine the following issues, including, but not limited to:

(1) Whether a right to blend law in Nebraska would aid in the expansion of renewable fuels and the use of locally produced ethanol;

(2) What barriers exist for fuel retailers in Nebraska regarding the ability to purchase sub octane fuel from fuel terminals and ethanol blended fuels produced in Nebraska;

(3) How the Renewable Fuel Standard program, authorized under the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, affects retail fuel prices; and

(4) Whether a right to blend law would affect carbon dioxide emissions and the environment in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Natural Resources 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 412.** Introduced by Watermeier, 1.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study ways to improve communication access for movie theaters in Nebraska to ensure all persons can fully experience the movie theater experience. The study committee shall consult with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and work with interested stakeholders to identify areas of concern, conduct necessary research, and explore ways to address communication access issues in movie theaters.

According to the Hearing Loss Association of America, approximately 20% of Americans report some degree of hearing loss. Using that statistic, approximately 376,000 people in Nebraska have some form of hearing loss. With over 60% of adults attending movies, it is the number one leisure activity in the United States. When Nebraskans who are deaf or hard of hearing attend a movie, the movie is often not in a format, such as open captioning, which provides communication access. Therefore, many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing are denied full participation in the movie experience.

The issues examined by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) What other states and the movie industry are doing to improve communication access in movie theaters;

(2) Complaints and concerns from the deaf and hard of hearing community about communication access in movie theaters; and

(3) Opportunities to share and address communication access issues among concerned stakeholders, including the deaf and hard of hearing community and movie theaters operating in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 430.** Introduced by Scheer, 19.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study whether the Nebraska Banking Act should be updated. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek the assistance of the

Department of Banking and Finance and should consider the input of interested persons as the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 431.** Introduced by Scheer, 19.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether the Securities Act of Nebraska should be updated. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek the assistance of the Department of Banking and Finance and should consider the input of interested persons as the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 439.** Introduced by Crawford, 45; Davis, 43; Friesen, 34; Hughes, 44; McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the use of tax-increment financing (TIF) by municipalities for residential development. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of housing needs in Nebraska municipalities, with particular emphasis on municipalities in rural Nebraska;

(2) A review of the current economic development tools available to Nebraska municipalities, including TIF, that can be utilized to address housing needs;

(3) An examination of the impacts of residential TIF projects on school districts and other political subdivisions;

(4) A review of notice requirements for residential TIF projects under the Community Development Law, including notices to school districts and other political subdivisions; and

(5) An examination of ways to improve cooperation between municipalities and school districts regarding residential TIF projects to address the concerns raised in items (3) and (4).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 452.** Introduced by Bolz, 29.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to establish a study group to examine issues surrounding the potential need to provide financial assistance for home accessibility modifications for people with disabilities, including the elderly. The issues addressed by this study group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The feasibility of the State of Nebraska providing some form of financial assistance for home accessibility modifications for people with disabilities, including the elderly;

(2) A comparison of possible methods for providing such financial assistance, including home accessibility modification tax credits, grant programs, or low-interest or zero-interest loans;

(3) A comparison of other states' programs that provide financial assistance for home accessibility modifications;

(4) Recommendations regarding individuals' eligibility for such financial assistance;

(5) Recommendations regarding the types of modifications which could be eligible for such financial assistance;

(6) An analysis and comparison of the potential costs, to both the State of Nebraska and individuals, of financial assistance for home accessibility modifications versus institutional care; and

(7) An analysis of the potential implications of providing financial assistance for home accessibility modifications, such as implications for health, safety, personal independence, employment, and the state budget and economy.

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

1. That the Revenue 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 on or before December 1, 2017.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 455.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21; Mello, 5.

WHEREAS, climate change presents serious, diverse, and ongoing issues for Nebraska. Many sectors are impacted, including water resources, agriculture, health care, energy generation and use, ecosystems, forestry,

rural and urban communities, and insurance. Nebraska's life-giving water and soil resources will be subject to new stresses and risks. The impacts of climate change are projected to become far more serious for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 report by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) entitled "Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska" provides a compilation of the scientific basis for understanding the impacts of climate change for our state; and

WHEREAS, stakeholder roundtables on the impacts of climate change representing the various sectors impacted by climate change were conducted in 2015 as a followup to the UNL report; and

WHEREAS, both the UNL report and the report from the stakeholder roundtables recommended the creation of a climate action plan. As the UNL report stated, "Action now is preferable and more cost effective than reaction later"; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll found that 61 percent of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that the state should develop a plan to address the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, an effective plan is needed both to reduce the potential negative impacts of climate change and to enable the state and its communities to take advantage of opportunities from adaptation and mitigation strategies, including attracting new businesses and investment to Nebraska.

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

1. The Legislature calls for the Executive Board of the Legislative Council to appoint a special committee to examine issues related to the impacts of climate change on the State of Nebraska and its residents, including assessments of vulnerability, risks, and economic impacts. The committee shall also examine opportunities, including methods of producing food, generating power, or protecting land and water, that can be used to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change and that will provide jobs and economic benefits to Nebraskans. The committee shall consist of the following members:

(a) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee;

(b) The chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee; and

(c) Five at-large members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

2. The committee members shall select co-chairpersons from the membership of the committee.

3. The committee shall gather, share, examine, and analyze data and information related to the impacts of climate change on the State of Nebraska and its resources and people.

4. The committee shall examine laws, policies, and planning efforts related to climate change in other states, and current laws, programs, and policies in the State of Nebraska that are related to climate change.

5. The committee shall examine funding opportunities including grant programs and opportunities to work with state agencies, political subdivisions, and educational institutions.

6. The committee shall establish a framework for a plan for the State of Nebraska related to the impacts of climate change on Nebraskans that includes:

(a) Measurable goals for addressing the negative impacts of climate change and opportunities to benefit Nebraskans, including strategies for adaptation and mitigation; and

(b) Recommendations for new policies and changes to policies and programs that support such goals based on the information and data collected and generated, as well as funding needs and recommendations for legislation.

7. The committee shall seek information and encourage participation from state agencies, political subdivisions, educational institutions, academic experts, advocacy organizations, and members of the public in exploring methods to address issues of climate change as well as opportunities to adapt, mitigate, and create resiliency related to climate change. The committee may conduct one or more public hearings to gather such information.

8. The committee shall submit a framework for a climate plan together with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2016.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 463.** Introduced by Campbell, 25.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine ways to improve the coverage of hearing aid costs for Nebraska families. The study committee shall coordinate with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and work with interested stakeholders to identify the areas of concern, conduct necessary research, and explore various ways to address the needs identified. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) How other states cover hearing aid costs;
- (2) Whether hearing aid coverage should be included as an essential health benefit under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
- (3) An examination of health insurance coverage options for persons requiring hearing aids; and
- (4) Recommendations on how to improve the services being provided by the hearing aid banks.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 464.** Introduced by Groene, 42; Bloomfield, 17; Brasch, 16; Craighead, 6; Davis, 43; Ebke, 32; Fox, 7; Friesen, 34; Harr, B., 8; Hughes, 44; Johnson, 23; Kintner, 2; Krist, 10; Kuehn, 38; Lindstrom, 18; McCollister, 20; Murante, 49; Scheer, 19; Schnoor, 15; Schumacher, 22; Sullivan, 41; Watermeier, 1.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this interim study is to examine the effects of the use of tax-increment financing (TIF) by municipalities pursuant to Article VIII, section 12, of the Constitution of Nebraska and section 18-2147 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) An examination of how the use of TIF affects the property tax base of local taxing entities;
- (2) An examination of how the use of TIF affects state spending under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act;
- (3) An examination of whether TIF has been used under the Community Development Law more broadly or extensively than the Legislature intended; and
- (4) Recommendations as to whether there should be state oversight or a state approval process for municipalities' TIF projects.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 483.** Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study is to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board, including the State Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska, the Retirement System for Nebraska Counties, the School Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement System, and the Nebraska Judges Retirement System. The study may also examine the retirement system established pursuant to the Class V School Employees Retirement Act.

The study will examine issues as they relate to the funding needs, benefits, contributions, and the administration of each retirement system.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee is 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 489.** Introduced by Crawford, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to housing authorities. The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the Nebraska Housing Agency Act and a review of federal statutes, rules, and regulations affecting housing authorities in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee is 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 490.** Introduced by Crawford, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the enforcement of state and local building codes. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A review of the role of the state in enforcing the state building code and the Nebraska Energy Code;
- (2) A review of the role of political subdivisions in enforcing the state building code, the Nebraska Energy Code, and local building and energy codes;
- (3) A review of the number of political subdivisions that have adopted local building or energy codes;
- (4) A review of the number of political subdivisions that employ local code inspectors;
- (5) An examination of the remedies available to a property owner when the owner's home or business does not meet the applicable building or energy code; and
- (6) An examination of the potential consequences for political subdivisions if they fail to enforce their local building or energy code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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 purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 493.** Introduced by Scheer, 19.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act should be updated. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should

seek the assistance of the Real Property Appraiser Board and should consider the input of interested persons as the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 495.** Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: Crawford, 45, Chairperson; Coash, 27; Ebke, 32; Hansen, 26; Howard, 9; Hughes, 44; McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine state law governing cities of the second class and villages in Chapter 17 of the Nebraska statutes. The goal of the study is to update and modernize the statutes governing cities of the second class and villages through the elimination of obsolete, antiquated, and duplicative statutory language.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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 purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 496.** Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: Crawford, 45, Chairperson; Coash, 27; Ebke, 32; Hansen, 26; Howard, 9; Hughes, 44; McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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 purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 498.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the Nebraska Right to Farm Act. In examining the act, the study committee should:

- (1) Review the purposes of the act;
- (2) Compile an analysis of the case law interpreting the act and the history of the act's application in Nebraska; and
- (3) Compare the provisions of the act with similar statutes from other states and review the case law interpreting those statutes. In particular, the study committee should examine case law that defines the scope of protections offered by other states' laws and case law addressing the constitutionality of such laws.

The study committee should also examine whether the Nebraska Right to Farm Act should be amended to reflect changes in farming practices that are resulting from changing market conditions, advances in farming technology, and innovations in cropping and livestock husbandry. The study committee should examine whether the act should be amended to address the conflicts and issues arising from these changing farm practices and to afford reasonable protections for such practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 499.** Introduced by Campbell, 25.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 502.** Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the use of revolving funds within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Revolving funds are used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one state agency to another on a cost-reimbursement basis. DAS has the statutory responsibility to provide centralized services to state agencies,

boards, and commissions. Excluding the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State College System, DAS accounts for 90.4 percent of all state revolving fund expenditures. This study shall include the following:

- (1) A history of revolving fund expenditures and revenue for each revolving fund within DAS;
- (2) A history of revolving fund balances for each revolving fund within DAS and the rationale for the levels of those balances; and
- (3) An explanation of how fee structures are determined for each of the activities or centralized services within DAS that are paid for with revolving funds.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 504.** Introduced by Murante, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the numerous deadlines involved in the election process. The study committee should examine how these deadlines work together, whether these deadlines are set appropriately, and any other issues related to election deadlines. In conducting this study, the study committee should seek the assistance of the Secretary of State and should consider the input of other interested persons as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 506.** Introduced by Seiler, 33; Chambers, 11; Coash, 27; Ebke, 32; Krist, 10; Mello, 5; Morfeld, 46; Smith, 14; Williams, 36; Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the efficacy of testing and monitoring programs, particularly the 24/7 sobriety program, in reducing recidivism for driving under the influence (DUI) and controlled substance offenses and to develop recommendations regarding the expansion of such programs throughout the state. The study committee is

encouraged to work with the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature to examine the issues involved in this study.

The study shall examine, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- (1) How 24/7 sobriety programs in Douglas County are currently being used to monitor repeat DUI offenders;
- (2) Current success rates for dealing with repeat DUI offenders through 24/7 sobriety monitoring programs in Nebraska and other states;
- (3) Statewide expansion of 24/7 sobriety programs across Nebraska, issues and costs associated with such an expansion, and any available funding to offset such costs; and
- (4) Statutory changes necessary to implement a statewide 24/7 sobriety program.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 507.** Introduced by Davis, 43; Bolz, 29; Campbell, 25; Cook, 13; Mello, 5.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this interim study is to examine the development of a public notification system to broadcast alerts when vulnerable adults go missing. Numerous states have instituted such programs, which are generally referred to as "Silver Alerts" or "Missing Person Advisories." Such alerts are designed to locate vulnerable adults whose health and safety are at risk while they remain missing. The Alzheimer's State Plan Subcommittee of the Aging Nebraskans Task Force has identified the need for such a system to locate missing persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following issues:

- (1) Identifying criteria and procedures that law enforcement agencies should use when instituting an alert;
- (2) Identifying eligibility criteria to determine which vulnerable adults should be included in the alert system, such as a specific age or diagnosis of cognitive impairment;
- (3) Determining who should be eligible to file a report of a missing vulnerable adult, such as spouses, legal custodians, or agencies;
- (4) Considering protocols to verify that a vulnerable adult is actually missing;
- (5) Determining how such alerts should be broadcast, such as via media reports, recorded calls, or highway signs;
- (6) Identifying potential community and statewide partners that are available to assist in developing and executing such an alert system; and
- (7) Determining whether the existing AMBER Alert System could be expanded to include additional types of missing persons.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 508.** Introduced by Harr, B., 8.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study possible changes to the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act. In particular, the study should include a review of amendments to the American Bar Association's Model Business Corporation Act which have been adopted or proposed since Nebraska adopted the act.

In order to carry out the purposes of this resolution, the study committee shall consider the input of interested persons, including the practicing bar, as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 509.** Introduced by Mello, 5; Davis, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the funding history, programs, and services offered by the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established a system of cooperative extension services connected to land-grant universities in order to inform citizens about current developments in agriculture, home economics, public policy and government, leadership, 4-H activities, and economic development. Extension services are found throughout Nebraska in 83 county or multi-county offices that serve all 93 counties, and at four Research and Extension Centers across the state.

This study shall examine the following:

- (1) The funding history of extension services in Nebraska, including federal, state, and county contributions;
- (2) A history of programs and services offered;
- (3) A history of funding for such programs and services;
- (4) The number of staff employed by the Cooperative Extensive Service by area or location; and

(5) A history of the funding of, and the programs and services offered by, the Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 510.** Introduced by Howard, 9.

**PURPOSE:** Integrating palliative care into mainstream medicine for all patients and families facing serious illnesses offers an essential opportunity to deliver on the promise of person-centered and family-focused care. Palliative care means medical care that improves the quality of life of a patient and his or her family as they face problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification, assessment, and treatment of pain and other physical, psychosocial, and spiritual problems.

Palliative care improves quality of life and creates care efficiencies that curb costs. Palliative care is concerned with treating the person beyond the disease. It is about improving quality of life and providing an extra layer of support to relieve the pain, symptoms, and stress of serious illness, and can be provided alongside curative treatment. It helps both the patient and family and is appropriate at any age and any stage. At its core, the focus of palliative care is to promote and protect patient and family quality of life by relieving the burden of illness and ensuring that treatment plans are tailored to personal goals.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine how to best integrate palliative care into the overall medical care structure of our health care system. This examination should include discussions about the establishment of a state advisory council on palliative care and quality of life and how this council could, by conducting educational programs or by other means, help increase access to and understanding of the usage and need for palliative care. The study committee should also examine whether legislation is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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 the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 511.** Introduced by Davis, 43; Baker, 30; Bolz, 29; Brasch, 16; Cook, 13; Groene, 42; Haar, K., 21; Harr, B., 8; Hilkemann, 4; Howard, 9; Kolowski, 31; Krist, 10; Kuehn, 38; Mello, 5; Morfeld, 46; Pansing Brooks, 28; Scheer, 19; Schnoor, 15; Schumacher, 22; Smith, 14; Stinner, 48; Sullivan, 41; Watermeier, 1.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this interim study is to examine existing law governing the collection of sales and use tax on remote sales—those sales where the seller does not have a physical presence in Nebraska—and determine whether and how existing law can be improved to increase collection of these legally due and payable but generally uncollected taxes.

Under existing United States Supreme Court precedent, a state cannot require a business to collect use taxes if the business does not have a physical presence in the state. However, in a concurring opinion in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl*, 135 S. Ct. 1124, 1135 (2015) ("Brohl II"), Justice Anthony Kennedy urged the Supreme Court to reconsider this precedent, stating that there "is a powerful case to be made that a retailer doing extensive business within a state has a sufficiently 'substantial nexus' to justify imposing some minor tax-collection duty, even if that business is done through mail or the Internet."

On remand from the United States Supreme Court, in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl*, case no. 12-1175 (Feb. 22, 2016) ("Brohl III"), the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit upheld as constitutional a Colorado law that requires retailers who do not collect sales tax to instead provide notices regarding use taxes to purchasers and make an annual report to the state that will facilitate the collection of use taxes.

In light of these legal developments, the study committee shall conduct an examination that includes, but is not limited to, the following issues:

(1) Examining whether Nebraska's sales and use tax nexus law allows the state to require remote sellers to collect sales tax to the fullest extent permitted by the Constitution of the United States, as interpreted by existing United States Supreme Court precedent, including *Quill v. North Dakota*, 504 U.S. 298 (1992); *Tyler Pipe Industries v. Washington State Department of Revenue*, 483 U.S. 232 (1987); and *Scripto, Inc. v. Carson*, 362 U.S. 207 (1960);

(2) Considering, in light of Justice Kennedy's concurring opinion in *Brohl II*, whether Nebraska should require all sellers to collect sales and use tax regardless of whether a nexus would be found under existing United States Supreme Court precedent; and

(3) Considering, in light of the Tenth Circuit's decision in *Brohl III*, whether Nebraska should require all sellers who do not collect sales and use taxes to provide notices on use tax to their purchasers and provide reports to the state that will facilitate the collection of use taxes from those purchasers.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 512.** Introduced by Business and Labor Committee: Harr, B., 8, Chairperson; Bloomfield, 17; Crawford, 45; Ebke, 32; Howard, 9; Johnson, 23.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study the Commission of Industrial Relations (CIR). The CIR is a state agency designed to resolve public sector labor controversies with jurisdiction over state and local government employees, including public utilities. The Constitution of Nebraska authorizes the creation of such an agency, and in 1947, state legislation created the CIR. The CIR was designed as a compromise meant to provide a meaningful avenue for workers to be heard and address fairness in the workplace while prohibiting workers from striking and ensuring public safety. The CIR is an option of last resort meant to be invoked only when the parties reach an impasse in their negotiations of wages, terms, or other conditions.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Implementation, experience, and practice of the CIR;
- (2) Effectiveness of legislation in providing greater predictability and consistency to the CIR process of resolving labor disputes;
- (3) Similar laws, programs, or institutions in other states addressing public sector labor controversies; and
- (4) Costs and benefits to employers, employees, and taxpayers as a result of the Industrial Relations Act.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 513.** Introduced by Howard, 9; Kolterman, 24.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine workforce issues within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Front-line professionals within juvenile probation and the Department of Health and

Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services have extremely challenging jobs. These professionals do what is necessary to respond to the urgent needs of children, youth, and families every day of the week and at all hours of the day and night. Such tasks include staffing the abuse and neglect hotline, conducting initial assessments, providing ongoing case management, and operating juvenile probation. A skilled and stable workforce of such professionals is key to successful outcomes for Nebraska's vulnerable children, youth, and families. This can be achieved when staff have manageable caseloads and workloads, when they receive high-quality training and education, and when turnover is minimized.

The study shall include:

(1) Examining whether there are adequate recruiting and retention efforts for front-line professionals within juvenile probation and the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services;

(2) Ascertaining whether the caseloads and workloads of such professionals are manageable and lead to successful outcomes;

(3) Determining whether statutes should be harmonized or amended to ensure clarity and consistency of caseload and workload requirements for caseworkers and juvenile probation officers; and

(4) Determining whether further efforts are needed to improve the professionalization and stability of the child welfare and juvenile justice workforce.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 514.** Introduced by Bolz, 29.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this interim study is to examine the availability of transition services for youth who will leave or have left the juvenile justice system while in an out-of-home placement and to determine whether additional transition services are needed. The study shall include the following:

(1) Examining potential sources of increased funding, including federal funding, and other options to increase access to supportive services for youth leaving Nebraska's juvenile justice system and transitioning into adulthood;

(2) Identifying methods for gauging and accessing the population to be served;

(3) Investigating options for program structuring; and

(4) Mapping opportunities to collaborate with or utilize existing community and state programming for older youth who lack supportive connections.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 517.** Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund was initially created with a \$50 million endowment for health care programs using the principal and investment income from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund and the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund. The purpose of this endowment was to create an ongoing funding mechanism for health care in Nebraska.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. This study shall include:

(1) A review of the annual Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund reports provided by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) Input from interested parties regarding the funds necessary to continue using the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to pay for health care and related services; and

(3) Recommendations as to any statutory or funding changes that the Legislature should make in order to protect the ongoing viability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 518.** Introduced by Hadley, 37.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to review issues surrounding child custody proceedings and parenting time determinations as they pertain to families of divorce. This study shall examine the following:

(1) A review and an analysis of research studies that examine how custody and parenting time awards affect social and emotional outcomes for children;

(2) A review, a comparison, and an analysis of parenting plans created by parents, negotiated by attorneys, mediated, and determined by courts;

(3) A review and an analysis of relevant legal standards related to the constitutional rights of children and parents;

(4) A review and an analysis of current and proposed legislation in other states to examine how other states have addressed these issues;

(5) A review and an analysis of parenting time guidelines currently used in Nebraska in order to set and determine parenting time standards, including variations of these standards across the state;

(6) A review and an analysis of available data on Nebraska divorce and custody proceedings;

(7) A review and an analysis of custody decisions in cases of domestic violence;

(8) A review and an analysis of how litigants manipulate the current family law system and the incentives the current system creates for such manipulation;

(9) A review and an analysis of the effect of child support guidelines on parenting time decisions and the effect of custody decisions on child support payments;

(10) A review and an analysis of what measures could be taken to improve implementation and actual enforcement of custody decisions; and

(11) A review and an analysis of custody decisions on subsequent litigation.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 519.** Introduced by Smith, 14.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine whether the One-Call Notification System Act should be updated. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek the assistance and input of the board of directors of the statewide one-call notification center, the State Fire Marshal, the Attorney General, members of the underground construction industry, and operators of underground utility facilities.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 520.** Introduced by Harr, B., 8.

**PURPOSE:** The misclassification of employees as independent contractors presents a serious problem for workers, employers, and the economy. Misclassified employees are often denied access to critical benefits and protections to which they are entitled, such as minimum wage, overtime compensation, family and medical leave, unemployment insurance, and safe workplaces. Employee misclassification generates substantial losses for the federal and state governments in the form of lower tax revenues and improperly avoided contributions to state unemployment insurance and workers' compensation funds.

This study shall include the following:

(1) A review of the administration and enforcement of the Employee Classification Act by the Department of Labor;

(2) A consideration of the sufficiency of resources available for administration and enforcement of misclassification laws and a consideration of whether existing resources could be better utilized to properly address the issue of employee misclassification;

(3) A review of reports issued by the Department of Labor pursuant to the Employee Classification Act to ascertain if there are consistent problems or concerns relating to worker misclassification that could be addressed through legislative changes; and

(4) An examination of the direct and indirect effects of misclassification on certain industries that result in complications and difficulties with unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, social security, tax withholding, temporary disability or other benefits, minimum wage and overtime laws, and in any other pertinent areas.

The study committee shall seek input from all interested parties, including the Department of Labor, business leaders, labor unions, and others, to examine how misclassification affects the relationship between employers and workers, how these parties may be able to contribute to more effective enforcement of existing worker misclassification laws, and to determine if legislative changes are necessary.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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 the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 521.** Introduced by Fox, 7.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study the business practices of pharmacy benefit managers as those practices relate to such managers' arrangements with private entities, insurers, pharmacies, and the State of Nebraska. The study committee shall also examine the need for oversight

and regulation of pharmacy benefit managers by the Department of Insurance.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 522.** Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, yet most cases are preventable. Skin cancer greatly affects quality of life, and it can be disfiguring or even deadly. Medical treatment for skin cancer creates substantial health care costs for individuals, families, and the nation. The number of people who have had skin cancer at some point in the last three decades is estimated to be higher than the number for all other cancers combined, and skin cancer incidence rates have continued to increase in recent years. In Nebraska, melanomas of the skin accounted for 1,781 diagnoses and 315 deaths between 2008 and 2012. The incidence of melanoma continues to increase significantly in Nebraska and throughout the United States.

Melanoma is responsible for the most deaths of all skin cancers, causing nearly 9,000 deaths each year. It is also one of the most common types of skin cancer among adolescents and young adults. Despite efforts to address skin cancer risk factors, such as inadequate sun protection and intentional tanning behaviors, skin cancer rates, including rates of melanoma, have continued to increase in Nebraska and the United States.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the issue of how to best educate the public and create awareness about the risks associated with sun exposure and ultraviolet radiation exposure. The study should also focus on how to create awareness surrounding sun-safety education and changes in behavior to promote sun-safe behavior. The committee should further examine this issue to determine what legislation or policy development may be necessary to address skin cancer prevention and ensure that comprehensive and accurate information is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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 the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 523.** Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine Nebraska law regarding the protection of children who have reached eighteen years of age but have not yet reached the age of majority. The study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) The response by the Department of Health and Human Services when concerns are raised about the mistreatment of minors between the ages of eighteen and nineteen years by their parents and the department's authority to respond in such situations;
- (2) Services and protections available for young people who lack their parents' consent to live independently prior to reaching nineteen years of age;
- (3) Gaps in services, legal protections, or access to public benefits experienced by minors between the ages of eighteen and nineteen years; and
- (4) Other states' policies and responses to these issues.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 525.** Introduced by Seiler, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the issues associated with treating an individual licensed under the Nebraska Real Estate License Act as a professional for purposes of civil actions for professional negligence.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 526.** Introduced by Hansen, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine municipal classifications. The study shall include the following:

- (1) A review of the current classification structure for municipalities;
- (2) A review of current population thresholds for municipality classes, including whether or not those thresholds can only be met through the decennial census process or annexation; and

(3) A review of other population thresholds for municipalities contained in Chapters 14 through 19 of the Nebraska statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 527.** Introduced by Schumacher, 22.

**PURPOSE:** An increasing number of states and the federal government have undertaken various degrees of criminal sentencing reform. State and federal policymakers have also begun to widely question the propriety of mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

Mandatory minimum sentencing laws require a minimum prison term of a particular length. With such laws judges have no discretion to go lower than the minimum sentence and probation is not an option. In Nebraska, an inmate serving a mandatory minimum sentence will not earn or receive good time credit for his or her behavior while serving the mandatory sentence.

Proponents of mandatory minimum sentences argue that these schemes reduce crime by acting as a general deterrent for potential criminals and repeat offenders. Proponents also contend that eliminating judicial discretion provides for fairness and uniformity in sentencing.

While these inflexible, one-size-fits-all sentencing laws may have initial appeal as a response to certain types of crimes, such laws fail to advance proportional justice because they prevent a judge from fitting punishment to the individual defendant and the exact circumstances of his or her crime.

In the last few legislative sessions, various members of the Legislature have introduced bills to limit or eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for some categories or types of crime or to amend the procedures which prosecutors must follow in prosecuting crimes that carry mandatory minimum sentences.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine possible legislative reforms to Nebraska's mandatory minimum sentencing laws. The study shall include the following:

(1) A review of current mandatory minimum sentences presently in statute;

(2) A review of the types of crimes which carry mandatory minimum sentences;

(3) A review of the process by which a mandatory minimum sentence may be sought, for example, by election or choice of the prosecuting attorney or by authorization of a judge or a panel of judges;

(4) A consideration of an exemption or a safety-valve for a defendant who is convicted of a crime carrying a mandatory minimum sentence, whereby the sentencing judge or a panel of judges may deviate or decide not to

impose the mandatory minimum sentence if the sentencing judge or panel finds that certain mitigating factors exist; and

(5) A review and examination of any potential consequences of implementing statutory changes to the mandatory minimum sentencing laws, with respect to amending penalty provisions, amending the procedures for filing charges carrying mandatory minimum sentences, or amending the procedures governing the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 529.** Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the ongoing implementation of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (Strengthening Families Act), Public Law 113-183, and related state law and policy. This study shall assess needs arising from the implementation of the federal Strengthening Families Act and determine the next steps for the Strengthening Families Act Task Force of the Nebraska Children's Commission.

The study shall include the following:

(1) Considering how to engage and empower affected individuals including youth, foster parents, and biological parents;

(2) Considering normalcy for youth involved in the foster care, juvenile justice, and mental health systems across all placement levels;

(3) Exploring the creation of a foster youth bill of rights;

(4) Reviewing how cultural considerations are made and addressed in policy and practice related to normalcy;

(5) Evaluating existing grievance processes for youth in foster care and examining the creation and implementation of a new grievance process;

(6) Examining the training provided to foster parents, providers, and others regarding the federal Strengthening Families Act, with special attention paid to the implementation of the reasonable and prudent parent standard;

(7) Reviewing ongoing reforms regarding the permanency objective of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement;

(8) Assessing the need for and availability of financial and other resources that can be utilized to increase normalcy activities for children and youth in foster care throughout Nebraska; and

(9) Considering how to coordinate efforts between statewide programs to prevent sex trafficking of youth involved in foster care.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 530.** Introduced by Howard, 9.

**PURPOSE:** In order to ensure a fair voting process for citizens who are hospitalized or who reside in nursing homes or extended care facilities, it is important to periodically reevaluate the process such individuals use to cast their ballots. Under current Nebraska law, local election officials bear primary responsibility for adopting voting procedures for such citizens.

Neb. Rev. Stat. section 32-944 authorizes the election commissioner or county clerk to train registered voters to act on his or her behalf in administering a ballot to a resident of a nursing home or hospital who has requested a ballot. Section 32-944 further provides that such ballots shall be administered by two registered voters who are not affiliated with the same political party. Finally, the section requires the election commissioner or county clerk to adopt procedures to carry out the section.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the voting processes and procedures available for citizens who are hospitalized or who reside in nursing homes or extended care facilities and determine whether legislation is needed to bring clarity and uniformity to the law and to ensure a fair and honest voting process.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 532.** Introduced by Bolz, 29.

**PURPOSE:** Reducing violence is key to promoting the general welfare of the residents of Nebraska. Proactively reducing violence will also lead to less crowding in the state's prisons and jails. The Legislature created the Office of Violence Prevention in 2009, in order to develop, foster, promote, and assess violence prevention programs. The purpose of this resolution is to evaluate the effectiveness and success of the Office of Violence Prevention. The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) The effectiveness and impact of the Office of Violence Prevention in reducing violence in Nebraska;

(2) The resources and authority available to the office;

(3) The office's assessment of best practices for violence prevention;

(4) Opportunities to expand, promote, and develop best practice initiatives to prevent violence in Nebraska; and

(5) Opportunities for the future growth of efforts and initiatives to reduce violence statewide.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 533.** Introduced by Bolz, 29.

PURPOSE: According to a 2015 survey of Nebraska businesses and organizations, workforce quality and availability is a top concern. By 2020, 38 percent of jobs in Nebraska will be middle-skill jobs: those requiring some postsecondary education but less than a bachelor's degree. To address the middle-skill employee gap, the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act promotes career pathways as a workforce development strategy.

This study shall examine the following:

(1) Nationwide best practices for promoting career education and training that can lead to job readiness for middle-skill positions;

(2) Innovative processes and programs through which training opportunities and educational programs have been established and fostered in other states;

(3) Opportunities available through the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act to promote career pipeline programs; and

(4) Strategies and opportunities to produce individuals prepared for middle-skill jobs and how to best implement such strategies.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 534.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21.

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Legislature adopted LR 43, which called for the Nebraska Investment Council to review the list of corporations and banks which invest in South Africa and remove them from the list approved for investment by the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the Legislature passed LB 553, which required divestment of all funds from companies doing business in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the campaign for divestment from South Africa that the Nebraska Legislature supported has been widely hailed as being an important component in leading to the end of apartheid in 1994; and

WHEREAS, climate change presents serious, many-layered, and ongoing issues for Nebraskans, with projections of far more serious impacts on future generations; and

WHEREAS, there is a scientific consensus that fossil fuels are the major contributor to accelerated rates of climate change; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel investments, particularly coal and oil, are losing value, becoming more volatile, and increasingly failing to fulfill prudent investment standards; and

WHEREAS, the number of institutions, governmental bodies, and businesses that are divesting from fossil fuels is rapidly increasing, and by the end of 2015, investors controlling over \$3.4 trillion in assets have pledged to remove investments from fossil fuel companies; and

WHEREAS, clean energy investments, including wind, solar, and other methods of generating energy that do not produce greenhouse gases or that reduce the amount or impact of greenhouse gas emissions, are increasing throughout the world and represent greater stability and better rates of return, both now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, fiduciaries are acting prudently when they consider the direct risks of a fossil-dependent portfolio and the likely resilience and collateral benefits of clean energy investing; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Legislature to determine the amount of the state's investments in companies or funds that derive a majority of their income from the extraction or burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Legislature to determine the amount of the state's investments in companies or funds that derive a majority of their income from clean energy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to determine whether the state can effectively divest from fossil fuels and invest in clean energy consistent with its fiduciary obligations.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to examine the following:

- (a) The extent that state funds are invested in fossil fuels;
- (b) The extent that state funds are invested in clean energy; and
- (c) The feasibility of divestment from fossil fuels and investment in clean energy consistent with the state's fiduciary responsibilities.

2. That the study committee shall work with the state investment officer, the Nebraska Investment Council, and their consultants to determine the extent that state funds are invested in fossil fuels and clean energy and the feasibility of divestment and investment as outlined in this study, to the extent such examination can be conducted without additional cost to the council.

3. That the committee shall examine such other issues as are necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

4. 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 535.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine how the Legislature can assist livestock producers involved in certain value-added activities. The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) How the Legislature can assist livestock producers seeking to establish or enter into value-added activities related to the direct processing and marketing of meats in local or regional markets;

(2) How the Legislature can help such producers form or link to value networks from production through consumption in local or regional markets through cooperation and aggregation of small or mid-scale livestock producer inputs; and

(3) What opportunities are available to coordinate incentives and assistance available under the Livestock Growth Act with Value-Added Producer Grants operated by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1632a.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 536.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

**PURPOSE:** In 2013, the Legislature enacted LR 309, which called upon the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature to conduct an interim study to investigate ways to avoid and mitigate conflicts arising from herbicide drift damage to sensitive crops. The purpose of this resolution is to complete the work of the LR 309 study committee.

This study committee shall complete any updates to the LR 309 interim draft report and finalize recommendations to the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 537.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to review the duties and authorities of the Department of Agriculture with respect to livestock animal identification pursuant to sections 54-702 and 54-702.01 of the Nebraska statutes and to assess the need to update and coordinate these sections with the final rule of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture regarding Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate, published January 9, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 538.** Introduced by Smith, 14.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study telecommunication services in Nebraska. The study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) The existing structure of regulations governing telecommunication services within Nebraska;
- (2) The need to update and revise provisions of Nebraska law governing the regulation of telecommunication service providers;
- (3) The role and operation of federal and state subsidy mechanisms created to support voice-grade and broadband telecommunication services;
- (4) The availability and quality of broadband telecommunication services in Nebraska; and
- (5) The need to enact incentives to supplement existing support mechanisms and encourage investment in broadband telecommunication infrastructure in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 539.** Introduced by Smith, 14.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to undertake a study of the jurisdiction and structure of the Nebraska Public Service Commission. The study committee shall examine and review the statutory and constitutional

jurisdiction of the commission as well as current provisions of law prescribing the commission's structure, organization, and operation. Additionally, the study shall examine the rules of procedure adopted by the commission, the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, and the advisability of exempting the commission, in whole or in part, from the provisions of the act.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 541.** Introduced by Larson, 40.

PURPOSE: The Nebraska County and City Lottery Act was established to allow any county, city, or village to conduct a lottery, including games of keno, for community betterment purposes. Since it has been established in Nebraska, the game of keno has provided funding for community betterment purposes across the state.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the economic benefits of keno. This study shall include the following:

(1) Reviewing the reported uses of keno community betterment dollars and an identification of the projects funded with such dollars;

(2) Examining the direct and indirect economic impacts of the game of keno, including how it helps support local businesses and the jobs it helps create in communities;

(3) Reviewing input from interested parties who could highlight the importance of keno, the impact that the money spent playing keno has on communities, and the benefits provided to communities through the use of community betterment dollars; and

(4) Developing recommendations as to any legislation that may be needed to ensure that the economic benefits of keno and the community betterment dollars keno provides can continue to support Nebraska communities.

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

1. That the General 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 542.** Introduced by Larson, 40.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the General Affairs Committee.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purpose 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 543.** Introduced by Hansen, 26.

PURPOSE: Birth certificates serve many important purposes. They are often necessary to obtain legal or other important documents and to obtain and enforce rights and privileges relating to personal identity, parental rights, and other significant matters.

The purpose of this resolution is to examine possible legislative reforms to Nebraska laws relating to birth certificates. The study shall include the following:

- (1) A review of current statutes relating to birth certificates;
- (2) A review of current regulations relating to birth certificates;
- (3) A review of the contents and form of birth certificates and the means of recording information on birth certificates; and
- (4) A review of the means by which a person may amend the contents of a birth certificate, such as amending the name of a parent or the gender listed on the certificate.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 544.** Introduced by Crawford, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the alternative response demonstration projects, also known as the alternative response pilot project, created in 2014 by LB 853 and to review the pilot project's implementation by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The study committee shall also examine the coordination of informal resources available in communities and formal assistance provided through state

systems in order to better serve families in the child welfare system and to prevent at-risk families from entering the system.

This study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) The effectiveness of the implementation and administration of the alternative response pilot project in strengthening families and preventing out-of-home placement, including issues that may be addressed in the future reauthorization and expansion of the pilot project;

(2) Systemic barriers to optimal effectiveness and accessibility of the alternative response pilot project in serving families for which the project was originally intended, including rules and regulations, mental and behavioral health service gaps, and procedural requirements;

(3) The interaction or coordination of services available from DCFS, other divisions within DHHS administering public assistance programs, and informal community-based services or programs that support families within or at risk of entering the child welfare system and how such interaction or coordination can better protect children and families and reduce the future risk of maltreatment; and

(4) The feasibility of extending certain structures and service systems utilized formally and informally by alternative response sites to cases that come to the attention of the statewide child abuse and neglect hotline but are not accepted for service provision, in order to prevent subsequent allegations of parental abuse or neglect in a comprehensive manner.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 545.** Introduced by Campbell, 25.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), with an emphasis on children that are eligible but unenrolled in these programs. This study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) Rates of participation for children in medicaid and CHIP in Nebraska;

(2) Reasons children are eligible but unenrolled in such programs;

(3) Outreach conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services to enroll children in such programs; and

(4) Strategies to ensure all children eligible for medical assistance are enrolled.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 546.** Introduced by Garrett, 3; Ebke, 32.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study is to examine whether, under North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission, 135 S. Ct. 1101 (2015), Nebraska's occupational licensing boards are exposed to liability under antitrust laws.

The study committee shall examine the state of occupational licensing in Nebraska and may study the free movement of labor in Nebraska. The study committee shall also examine laws that have intentionally and unintentionally resulted in the closure of small Nebraska businesses. Additionally, the study committee shall evaluate proposals to reform Nebraska statutes governing occupational licensing in order to promote job creation and ensure that Nebraska's occupational licensing boards are exempt from antitrust laws.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 547.** Introduced by Larson, 40.

**WHEREAS,** the Legislature has a variety of tools that it can utilize to enhance economic development for the Native American population of Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS,** these tools include tax incentives, housing opportunities, grants, special education policies, and access to health care; and

**WHEREAS,** the Legislature would benefit from the advice and recommendations of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature regarding the development of policies and refinements to existing laws that can be made to encourage and enhance economic development for the Native American population of Nebraska.

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

1. That the Legislature hereby calls for the Executive Board of the Legislative Council to meet forthwith and appoint a special committee of the Legislature to be known as the Tribal Economic Development Committee of the Legislature. The special committee shall consist of five members: The

chairperson of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee, the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee, the chairperson of the Revenue Committee or his or her designee, and two members of the Legislature selected by the Executive Board. The members of the special committee shall choose a chairperson from among the members of the committee.

2. That the Tribal Economic Development Committee shall conduct a study examining the policy tools available to the Legislature to enhance economic development for the Native American population of Nebraska.

3. That the Tribal Economic Development Committee shall consult with the members of the Education and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature in conducting this study.

4. That the Tribal Economic Development Committee shall formulate draft legislation and policy recommendations and issue a report with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than December 15, 2016.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 548.** Introduced by Riepe, 12; Gloor, 35.

PURPOSE: Cigarette smoking remains the leading preventable cause of sickness and mortality and is responsible for over 400,000 deaths in the United States each year. The purpose of this resolution is to examine issues surrounding youth tobacco use. The study shall include the following:

(1) Examining health risks associated with the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products by youth;

(2) Examining the prevalence of underage use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products;

(3) Reviewing legislation in other states addressing the use of tobacco products by youth; and

(4) Identifying potential improvements that can be made to the Tobacco Free Nebraska program operated by the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 549.** Introduced by Garrett, 3; Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: U nonimmigrant status, also known as U visa status, was created by the federal Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-386, which included the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 2000. U visa status is designed to provide temporary

lawful status to noncitizen crime victims who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been a victim of certain criminal activity and who are willing to assist law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of that criminal activity.

Congress created the U visa status to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes and to offer protection to victims of such crimes. The legislation was also intended to help law enforcement to better serve such victims.

Nationwide, however, some law enforcement agencies have failed to certify any victims of crime as eligible for U visa status, either for political reasons or due to a lack of understanding of the law.

The purpose of this study is to examine issues relating to utilization of the U visa program in Nebraska. The study shall include the following:

(1) A review of Nebraska law enforcement policies and practices to determine whether Nebraska law enforcement agencies are certifying cooperating individuals as eligible for U visa status;

(2) A review of Nebraska law enforcement agencies' policies relating to identifying possible victims of human trafficking and their eligibility for U visa status; and

(3) An examination of whether any legislation is needed to encourage or require Nebraska law enforcement agencies to utilize the U visa program and certify victims as eligible for U visa status.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 550.** Introduced by Schumacher, 22.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine the feasibility of creating a common data collection site for the county jail information necessary to receive funding under the County Justice Reinvestment Grant Program under section 81-1426.01 of the Nebraska statutes and similar programs. A common data collection site will help to ensure that the evaluation procedures regarding county jail costs are providing reliable and uniform information. The need for such a review became apparent after discussions within the County Justice Reinvestment Group Subcommittee of the Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight that was created in response to passage of LB 605 (2015). This study shall include the following:

(1) Identifying methods to efficiently collect data required by the County Justice Reinvestment Grant Program;

(2) Examining where county jail data is currently collected;

(3) Identifying issues associated with creating a uniform and common data collection site for county jail information; and

(4) Clarifying the roles of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Office of Probation Administration, and other agencies to ensure that any differences are intentional and desired.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 551.** Introduced by Krist, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to explore and assess the use of congregate care in Nebraska for youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) Statistics on youth in congregate care in Nebraska, including the number of youth who spend time in congregate care settings and the amount of time youth spend in congregate care placements;

(2) The variety of congregate care placements that exist throughout Nebraska, when these placements are utilized for youth, and how often these placements are utilized;

(3) The disproportionality that may exist in such placements;

(4) The availability of and need for therapeutic or treatment foster care and other family-like placements in Nebraska;

(5) Best practices related to congregate care; and

(6) Consideration of the need for any changes to policies, practices, and programs.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 552.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21; Mello, 5.

WHEREAS, well-managed budgetary decisions and appropriation of state funds are vital to the health of Nebraska's economy through maintaining infrastructure, supporting educational systems, assisting political subdivisions, and providing for the necessary operations of state government; and

WHEREAS, vision and far-sighted fiscal and budgetary planning have helped Nebraska maintain a vibrant economy, an excellent educational system, and a strong infrastructure and support the necessary functions of state government and its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, climate change is already having impacts on revenue generation and the funding and budgetary needs of the state and its agencies, including, but not limited to, emergency management, natural resources, agriculture, game and parks, health and human services, forestry, education, economic development, and insurance. The state's fiscal and budgetary process is also affected by the impact of climate change on infrastructure, educational systems, and political subdivisions, including, but not limited to cities, counties, and natural resource districts; and

WHEREAS, future climate change is likely to have even more significant impacts on revenue generation and the funding and budgetary needs of the state and its agencies, infrastructure, educational systems, and aid to political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, there exist opportunities for economic development and revenue generation arising from efforts to adapt to or mitigate the impacts of climate change that impact the budgetary process. These include budgetary decisions that support development of Nebraska's abundant wind and solar resources, biofuel development, changes to health systems and the insurance industry, investment in new technology, and development of opportunities that will benefit Nebraska's agricultural economy, including new crops and livestock; and

WHEREAS, vision and far-sighted fiscal and budgetary planning are needed to attract new businesses to Nebraska and attract and keep young people in the state; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and budgetary process needs to consider the funding needed to enable academic and business research to develop the innovations to meet the challenges of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to create the framework for a plan to address the economic, revenue, and budgetary implications of climate change on the State of Nebraska.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to develop a plan to address funding and budgetary issues related to climate change.

2. That the study shall examine the funding and budgetary impact of climate change on state agencies, including, but not limited to, issues related to the following areas:

- (a) Public health;
- (b) Agriculture;
- (c) Emergency management;
- (d) Natural resources;
- (e) Game and parks;
- (f) Forestry;
- (g) Water resources;

- (h) Education;
- (i) Insurance; and
- (j) Economic development.

3. That the study shall examine the funding and budgetary impact of climate change on the following:

- (a) Public infrastructure;
- (b) Rural and urban communities;
- (c) Colleges and universities;
- (d) Natural resource districts; and
- (e) Other political subdivisions.

4. That the study shall examine the funding and budgetary impact of climate change on efforts to take advantage of opportunities related to climate change, including, but not limited to, issues related to the following:

- (a) Academic research;
- (b) Business research; and
- (c) Economic development opportunities.

5. That the committee shall examine any other issues necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

6. 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 553.** Introduced by Riepe, 12.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study issues surrounding the Medicaid Reform Council. This study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) The structure, membership, and duties of the Medicaid Reform Council as set forth in section 68-948 of the Nebraska statutes;
- (2) Changing demographics in the state and the need to reform Nebraska's medicaid program to address those changes;
- (3) Recent federal changes to medicaid and the modifications necessary to implement those changes at the state level;
- (4) Potential medicaid reforms including cost-sharing, health care delivery, coordinated care, patient-centered medical homes, direct primary care, and other innovations; and
- (5) Whether such reforms should be implemented in Nebraska's current medicaid program.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 554.** Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study is to review and examine information regarding air ambulance costs and the information available to consumers about such costs. Air ambulances most commonly transport patients with life-threatening conditions or in emergency situations. The Association of Air Medical Services estimates that more than 550,000 patients in the United States use air ambulances each year. However, using air ambulances is expensive and might not be covered by the patient's health insurance policy.

Air ambulances are generally utilized in situations in which patients have no control over how they are transported for treatment. Time is often a critical factor in deciding transportation for care. Patients are usually not able to negotiate prices or refuse transport when requiring urgent medical care. Refusing service is not an easy choice when trained medical staff have determined an air ambulance is a necessity. Ill patients often cannot make a free choice whether to use an air ambulance, nor is there information available as to the cost of the transportation and whether it is covered by insurance.

According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the average air ambulance trip is 52 miles and costs between \$12,000 to \$25,000 per flight. Many air and ground ambulance services refuse a preferred provider contract with payers, forcing patients to pay high, uncontrolled billed charges. There are reports of large balance bills to air ambulance patients that were unexpected and often uncovered by insurance. Air ambulance bills appear to be a nationwide issue.

The study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) The cost of air ambulance services for patients in Nebraska for both in-network and out-of-network air ambulance services;
- (2) When and how consumers are notified of air ambulance costs and balance billing and what recourse is available for lack of coverage;
- (3) What effect federal law has on rates for air transport in medical trauma or emergency situations; and
- (4) How other states are addressing the need for transparency in air ambulance charges and what coverage is available for air transportation in medical emergencies.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 555.** Introduced by Lindstrom, 18.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the process and procedures used in appeals before the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. This study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) Who may file an appeal or represent a party in an appeal from a decision of the county board of equalization regarding the taxation, valuation, or assessment of real or personal property;
- (2) The burden of proof required in such an appeal; and
- (3) Any other procedures of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission that the study committee chooses to examine.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 556.** Introduced by Harr, B., 8.

PURPOSE: The Conveyance Safety Act was enacted to ensure the safety of the general public and workers as they use and work on conveyances throughout the state. This study shall examine the conveyances currently covered by the act, the frequency of inspections, and the level of safety regulations in other states. The study committee shall also seek input from the members of industry serving on the Conveyance Advisory Committee.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 557.** Introduced by Garrett, 3; Krist, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine what actions the State of Nebraska needs to take to meet the United States Department of Defense's mandate that, by 2020, at least twenty percent of the department's energy demand come from renewable sources, at least twenty-five percent of the total energy consumed by the United States Army come from renewable sources, and that at least twenty-five percent of United States Air Force facilities' energy consumption come from renewable or alternative sources. The study shall also examine what actions the State of Nebraska

needs to take to meet the department's requirement that all new buildings are designed to achieve zero net energy by 2030.

The study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) Whether Nebraska needs to take any steps to assist Offutt Air Force Base in meeting these requirements;
- (2) Any difficulties the Nebraska National Guard may have in complying with these requirements;
- (3) The backlog of maintenance and repair projects that challenge the Nebraska National Guard's ability to meet these requirements;
- (4) All military buildings and structures that are funded with help from the State of Nebraska and the possible cost of bringing such buildings and structures into compliance;
- (5) Whether performance energy audits are a valuable tool in identifying priorities to achieve greater efficiencies; and
- (6) Possible funding mechanisms to pay for the renewable technologies mandated by the Department of Defense requirements.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 558.** Introduced by Harr, B., 8.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to evaluate the governance structure of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 559.** Introduced by Krist, 10.

PURPOSE: Too few high school students and citizens across the country-Nebraska included-know and understand basic American civics. According to the Pew Research Center, only one-third of Americans can correctly name one of the three branches of government, much less say what each branch does. Nationally, dozens of states are discussing possible solutions to ending the quiet crisis of civics education. Over the years, school districts have emphasized STEM (science, technology, engineering,

and math) programs. While these programs and curricula are vastly important for the success of students, a new emphasis needs to be placed on civics education if students are to be active and engaged in the political process throughout their lives. To help increase students' education in civics, many states have passed the Civics Education Initiative into law.

The Civics Education Initiative is a first step to ensure that all students are taught basic civics about the United States and who we are as a nation. A strong civics education will serve as a foundation for informed, engaged, and successful citizens in the future. The State Board of Education has already created standards for social studies-which includes criteria for civics education-but these standards are not tested in ways similar to math or science. By implementing a civics test, either through legislation or regulation, Nebraska's school districts will have the tools needed to increase their students' understanding of civics.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the feasibility and impact of implementing the Civics Education Initiative in Nebraska through legislation or in partnership with the State Board of Education through their regulation process. The study should also focus on the policies that other states are adopting to increase civics education. The committee should further examine this issue to determine what legislation or policy development may be necessary to implement the Civics Education Initiative or a similar program, while allowing local school districts to determine the best way to implement the civics test in a cost-effective manner by encouraging the State Board of Education to include the initiative as a part of Rule 10.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 560.** Introduced by Krist, 10.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine the origins and utility of using court fees as a source of funding in Nebraska. The general purpose of this study is to analyze all of the state-funded and fee-based representation in the judicial system.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 561.** Introduced by Krist, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the effectiveness, economic stability, and long-term viability of the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney and the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 562.** Introduced by Garrett, 3; Craighead, 6; Krist, 10; Lindstrom, 18; Smith, 14.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine why LB 20, LB 357, and LB 454 failed to pass during the 104th legislative session. The study committee shall examine Nebraska's income tax rates and examine in detail how these rates affect the behavior of military retirees and seniors who receive Social Security benefits. The study committee may also conduct a cost-benefit analysis of property tax relief versus income tax relief and examine creative ways to reduce income tax rates in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 563.** Introduced by Garrett, 3; Craighead, 6; Lindstrom, 18.

PURPOSE: According to a 2015 study by the Tax Foundation, Nebraska ranks second highest in the nation in the imposition of taxes, fees, and government charges on wireless telephone service. According to the same study, Nebraska had the highest disparity between its rate of wireless taxes and fees and its general sales tax rate.

The purpose of this study is to examine the reasons for the substantial tax rates on wireless telephone service in Nebraska. The study committee shall examine what government entities receive funding from such taxes and how those entities are spending and allocating those funds. It is imperative that the Legislature ascertain whether these tax dollars are earmarked for specific purposes or are being used for general operating expenses. The study shall

also examine the broader impact of these tax rates on individual Nebraskans and the state as a whole.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 564.** Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study education in Nebraska, with an emphasis on adults and postsecondary education. This study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) Student retention, graduation, employment, and earnings;

(2) Access to postsecondary education for minority students;

(3) Access to and use of awards under the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act; and

(4) The regulation of educational institutions in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 565.** Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine land acquisition within municipalities for educational purposes. The study shall include an analysis of the existing laws relating to land acquisition within municipalities for educational purposes and an examination of the need for changes to such laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 566.** Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Ebke, 32.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine the availability of education, rehabilitation, and reentry support for incarcerated men and women. This study shall include the following:

- (1) Evaluation of education programs for prisoners and their effect on recidivism;
- (2) Identification of program needs, including ways to accommodate more inmates;
- (3) Evaluation of the availability of programming as required or recommended in a programming plan, including waiting lists and logistical needs;
- (4) Evaluation of the availability of programs that assist and prepare incarcerated adult offenders to successfully reintegrate into society;
- (5) Evaluation of the needs of released adult offenders in locating and retaining employment and housing; and
- (6) Examination of the community support systems for adult offenders that use volunteers and existing community agencies and services.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 567.** Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Lindstrom, 18; Mello, 5.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine and review the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay and the secondary effects of such sales. The study committee shall develop recommendations for what should be done to address the issues arising from such sales and shall seek the input of the State-Tribal Relations Committee.

The study shall include the following:

- (1) An examination of the need for legislation to fund increased law enforcement in the area;
- (2) A review of LB 713 (1961), which provided for the funding and appointment of deputy state sheriffs for certain counties, and consideration of whether similar legislation should be adopted now; and
- (3) An examination of whether law enforcement efforts to enforce the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and other state and federal statutes are effective.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 568.** Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the membership, role, and duties of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council. It is important that the council represent all aspects and membership of law enforcement officers statewide. Law enforcement officers have different duties and experiences based upon rank, role, and location across Nebraska. The study shall also review the membership, role, and duties of law enforcement oversight councils in other states.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 569.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the means available to fund the grant program established pursuant to the Livestock Growth Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 570.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to review the duties and authorities of the Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 2-3815 of the Nebraska statutes to establish an agriculture promotion and development program. Specifically, the study committee shall review the roles and resources of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development with respect to recruiting and facilitating investment in agricultural processing. Additionally, the study committee shall examine the role of the agriculture promotion and development

program in advising and assisting communities seeking investment in agricultural processing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 571.** Introduced by Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee: Kolterman, 24, Chairperson; Davis, 43; Groene, 42; Kolowski, 31; Lindstrom, 18; Mello, 5.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study is to examine local political subdivision retirement plans for public employees. The study will examine issues relating to benefits, contributions, plan structures, fees, funding, and the administration of such plans.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 572.** Introduced by Riepe, 12.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine issues surrounding the Division of Veterans' Homes of the Department of Health of Human Services and wait times for admission to the Nebraska veterans' homes system.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 573.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21; Garrett, 3.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study the historic and present state of industrial hemp as an alternative crop in Nebraska and its future potential. The study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) Industrial hemp growth, processing, production, marketing, use, and profitability in Europe, China, Canada, and other countries;
- (2) The past, present, and future status of industrial hemp under federal law;
- (3) The status and development of industrial hemp in other states;
- (4) The present status and potential of industrial hemp as an alternative crop and source of marketable products for Nebraskans; and
- (5) Proposals regarding the future status of industrial hemp in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Judiciary and Agriculture Committees of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 574.** Introduced by McCollister, 20; Crawford, 45; Hansen, 26; Howard, 9; Morfeld, 46.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to study aspects of Nebraska's medicaid program that include share of cost or resource spend down components in order to evaluate such components' effectiveness and explore ways in which they can be improved for the Nebraskans served by Nebraska's medicaid program. Because medicaid is a joint federal and state program, each state can set different coverage requirements, subject to federal minimum standards. Nebraska's eligibility requirements and benefits have remained at the minimums required by the federal government for an extended period of time. Thus, the share of cost obligations in Nebraska are much more severe than those of other states.

This study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) A review of the current benefits and eligibility requirements of those aspects of Nebraska's medicaid program that include a share of cost or resource spend down component;
- (2) A determination of the number of individuals currently served by these programs, the number who spend down because they choose to work, the number who meet the share of cost requirement, how monthly eligibility is verified, the amounts of spend down costs and share of cost obligations and the ranges, medians, and averages of such amounts, how many other policies are purchased so individuals can spend down, and how many claims are filed with these other policies so Nebraska medicaid does not have to cover any costs;

(3) An examination of the application process for Nebraska's medicaid share of cost and resource spend down components, and the ways in which clients are informed about why they are subject to such requirements, how the requirements work, and what participants subject to such requirements are expected to do each month to receive their benefits, from the initial point of intake through their ongoing use of medicaid; and

(4) A comparison of similar programs in other states to determine what flexibility is allowed by the federal government and what changes need to be made to Nebraska medicaid to bring it more in line with current cost-of-living factors.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 575.** Introduced by McCollister, 20; Crawford, 45; Hansen, 26; Howard, 9; Kolterman, 24; Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to continue the ongoing study of access to healthcare in Nebraska. This study shall include the following:

(1) Examination of the funding mechanisms and revenue streams that support healthcare services for all Nebraskans;

(2) Review of the Medicaid Reform Council and changes needed to update the council; and

(3) Identification of and collaboration with all healthcare groups to determine how to improve access to healthcare for all Nebraskans.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 576.** Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine children's access to legal counsel in juvenile proceedings across the state of Nebraska. The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) State and federal legislation and case law regarding the right to legal counsel in juvenile delinquency and status offense proceedings;

(2) Current data from the State Court Administrator regarding numbers and rates of juveniles requesting or waiving counsel, as well as any legislative history, research, studies, or special investigations regarding waiver of counsel in juvenile delinquency and status offense proceedings;

(3) Local court rules, practices, and procedures surrounding appointment of counsel and access to legal counsel in juvenile delinquency and status offense proceedings;

(4) Local diversion policies and practices, including requirements found in section 43-260.04 of the Nebraska statutes;

(5) A review of national policies, recommendations, and best practices for ensuring meaningful access to legal counsel for juveniles in both urban and rural environments; and

(6) A review of scientific evidence and research surrounding a youth's cognitive and linguistic development with an emphasis on developmental considerations surrounding waiver of counsel.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 577.** Introduced by Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to investigate and review the issues within the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 578.** Introduced by Coash, 27.

PURPOSE: In LR 32 (2015), the Legislature created the Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee of the Legislature. The LR 32 committee has been authorized to continue its work until the beginning of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, First Session.

The purpose of this resolution is to conduct an interim study of the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act. The Judiciary Committee of the Legislature, in consultation with the LR 32 committee, shall conduct the study.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 579.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: There is a great deal of support for solar energy among the general population in Nebraska with polls consistently showing strong majorities supporting solar energy. Many communities and community organizations in Nebraska have shown interest in developing solar projects to benefit their communities. Businesses and agricultural operations have also shown interest in developing solar projects to reduce their electric bills and provide a hedge against increasing utility costs. Some businesses and agricultural operations have shown interest in developing projects that have greater capacity than permitted by the current net metering cap. Solar electricity generation can provide extra value to utilities, businesses, and individuals because it generates most of its electricity at times of peak demand. Solar heating can also provide value to businesses and individuals. There are opportunities for public power to work with private entities to take advantage of incentives, including grant and loan programs.

This study shall examine the following:

- (1) Methods of authorizing solar projects that have community ownership by both municipalities and community organizations;
- (2) Methods of assisting agricultural and business organizations in their efforts to develop solar energy;
- (3) Whether current net metering policies need to be revised, including increasing the net metering capacity limit;
- (4) Whether state incentives are needed to stimulate solar development;
- (5) Examination of the value of solar energy to businesses, individuals, and utilities;
- (6) Methods of assisting the use of solar heating for businesses and individuals; and
- (7) Such other issues as are necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

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

1. That the Natural Resources 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 580.** Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the Department of Health and Human Services' policies and procedures for dealing with disallowances and audit exceptions by the federal government which have resulted in large fines and having to return money to the federal government.

The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) Programs and procedures that resulted in disallowances and audit exceptions for the state and an analysis of disallowances and fines related to programs over the past five years;

(2) Changes in policy and procedure, organizational structure, or quality control or implementation of other qualitative measures that will prevent future such occurrences;

(3) Inventory of current issues or potential issues which may lead to future disallowances or fines;

(4) Reports from the Auditor of Public Accounts, program auditors, performance and internal audits of the past two years, including findings and management responses;

(5) Consultant reports, including recommendations and management responses;

(6) The department's management analysis of staff as to the quantity and quality of transaction matrices, length of employment, turnover rates for all six divisions, and any other relevant data; and

(7) Programs and procedures that resulted in disallowances and audit exceptions for the state.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 581.** Introduced by Kintner, 2.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine and identify the positive and negative effects of federal education funding if Nebraska would choose not to accept federal funds that are tied to federal mandates. These mandates reduce flexibility in the administration of education in Nebraska's school districts. Over the last several decades, school districts have experienced ever-increasing involvement by the federal government in the education of students in our elementary and secondary schools through mandates tied to federal education dollars. This study shall examine the effects of this trend and whether there are fiscal or other benefits of increased flexibility and freedom gained by refusing to accept federal funds which outweigh the monetary benefits of accepting federal education money.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, identifying and categorizing:

- (1) All federal funds received by Nebraska to support school districts, excluding federal programs entered into directly by school districts;
- (2) What specific mandates are connected with any such funds;
- (3) The positive and negative fiscal impacts and other effects of refusing such money; and
- (4) Any recommendations from the findings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 582.** Introduced by Riepe, 12; Baker, 30; Brasch, 16; Davis, 43; Fox, 7; Hilkemann, 4; Johnson, 23; Kolterman, 24; Krist, 10; Lindstrom, 18; Schnoor, 15; Stinner, 48; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine how, through better coordination of health services, including direct primary care and direct payment options and the use of federally qualified health centers, the state can better assist low-income individuals currently without insurance. The study committee shall also investigate alternatives to medicaid expansion.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 583.** Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study administrative law judges in Nebraska. This study shall include an examination of the adequacy, training, and retention of administrative law judges. The study shall also examine whether timeliness requirements for fair hearings and decisions are being met in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 584.** Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the possibility of providing direct and statewide funding for legal representation in order to provide more equitable access to civil justice in Nebraska. The study shall include the following:

(1) A review of the current funding streams for the Legal Aid and Services Fund and an examination of the practical reasons and policies behind the funding trends within the Legal Aid and Services Fund;

(2) An examination of additional methods for funding access to legal representation, including, but not limited to, fees for alternative dispute resolution, better tracking of alternative dispute resolution proceedings, direct annual appropriations, and increasing court fees;

(3) A comparison of Nebraska's court fees and funding options with those of other states; and

(4) An examination of any relevant factors that could improve equitable access to civil justice and legal representation in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 586.** Introduced by Groene, 42; Harr, B., 8; Morfeld, 46; Schnoor, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the effects, fiscal impact, and potential cost savings of transferring public school employees from the system of district-based health insurance plans to the Nebraska State Insurance Program. The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) The fiscal impact to the districts and the state if the state takes on the administrative costs and the school districts and their employees pay the premium costs; and

(2) The option of including the school districts' health insurance costs within the present Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) calculations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 587.** Introduced by Sullivan, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the Education Committee of the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 588.** Introduced by Harr, B., 8.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to determine best practices in drafting tax legislation and determining the fiscal impact of tax policies.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 589.** Introduced by Seiler, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 590.** Introduced by Riepe, 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine options to offer incentives to health care professionals who provide free care and services to qualified recipients. Such incentives may include a limited amount of continuing medical education credits or providing legal protection for health

care professionals providing such care. The issues addressed in this study shall include what incentives other states offer for health care professionals and the cost to implement such incentives.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 591.** Introduced by Hadley, 37.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine and make recommendations on improving the health care coverage plans available to Nebraska small businesses with fifty or less employees.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Current health insurance plans available to small businesses with fifty or less employees;

(2) How the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has changed premium costs and coverage for plans available to small businesses and their employees;

(3) The cause of small businesses reducing the availability of health care coverage plans to employees;

(4) The economic disadvantages and challenges small businesses face to provide affordable health care coverage to employees; and

(5) The formation of health care insurance consortiums with like groups of employees.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 592.** Introduced by Gloor, 35.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of the state individual and corporate income taxes, including financial institution and insurance premium taxes.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 593.** Introduced by Gloor, 35.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of real and personal property taxes.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 594.** Introduced by Gloor, 35.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of state and local sales and use taxes and any other miscellaneous taxes.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 595.** Introduced by Hansen, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the topic of food deserts and issues related to access to healthy food in Nebraska. The study shall:

(1) Review relevant literature and consult experts in nutrition and other relevant fields to identify factors that limit access to healthy, affordable food choices within rural and urban communities and demographic groups;

(2) Identify public and private initiatives that can stimulate private investment in grocery and other food-sourcing enterprises that serve communities and populations that lack access to healthy food and that can otherwise mitigate barriers to accessing healthy food;

(3) Compile a reference guide to public and private funding sources and state and federal economic development tools available to support public and private efforts to increase access to healthy food; and

(4) Examine the role of community organizations, economic development entities, local government agencies, and the private sector in expanding access to healthy food in underserved communities and populations and identify state interventions that can stimulate and support local efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 596.** Introduced by Murante, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 597.** Introduced by Murante, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the financing mechanisms available to counties, cities, villages, school districts, natural resource districts, public building commissions, and other political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska by which such entities issue bonds or assume future payment obligations without a direct vote of taxpayers that would be required for most general obligation bonds, as well as the authority allowing the use of such mechanisms. The mechanisms to be studied and the issues surrounding each shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Installment contracts entered into by political subdivisions for the purchase of real or personal property, the statutory or other authority by which such contracts are entered into, the outstanding amount of any payments to be made by political subdivisions that have entered into such contracts, any accompanying bonds issued for such contracts or future payments, and the statutory or other authority by which such bonds are issued and authorized;

(2) Certificates of participation issued by political subdivisions, the statutory or other authority by which such certificates are issued, and the outstanding amount of any payments to be made by political subdivisions issuing such certificates;

(3) Lease-purchase agreements entered into by political subdivisions, the authority by which such agreements are entered into, and the outstanding amount of any payments to be made by political subdivisions that have entered into such agreements; and

(4) Any other financing mechanisms that obligate political subdivisions to make future payments for a number of years, the authority by which such mechanisms are employed, and the outstanding payments to be made by political subdivisions using such mechanisms.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 598.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21.

PURPOSE: Twenty-first century life is increasingly controlled by electronic devices, including computers, cell phones, and other digital communication and information technology devices. Electronic devices are embedded in most modern household, business, agricultural, and transportation devices, appliances, machinery, and equipment. Such electronic devices are controlled by codes and software that are developed and controlled by the manufacturers of such devices, appliances, machinery, and equipment. The owners of devices, appliances, machinery, and equipment controlled by codes and software rarely have the ability to repair these devices on their own because they lack access to the codes and software that control them.

There are economic and security benefits that result from allowing individuals and independent repair persons access to software and codes for the purpose of repairing such items. Such benefits include competition, community vitality, and greater access for consumers.

As part of this study, issues related to allowing owners and independent repair persons access to software and codes that will allow them to repair devices, appliances, machinery, and equipment shall be examined as well as any additional issues that are necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 599.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21.

PURPOSE: Some public power districts have adopted rate increases despite widespread opposition from their customers. There is no administrative process for review of electric rates, and seeking review through the court system is not economically feasible for most customers. Several public power districts have increased their fixed charges. In some cases, this has resulted in disproportionate increases in electric bills for many low-income customers. Increased fixed charges also negatively impact customers who have invested or intend to invest in energy efficient or renewable energy improvements. There are many factors involved in the process of setting retail rates including wholesale contract requirements and increases in costs of fuels. There is considerable disparity in the electric rates among public power districts. There are reports of municipalities using their electric utilities to generate revenue to offset other costs in the community. There have been a number of concerns raised about transparency in the process of setting rates, with power districts claiming proprietary exclusions to prevent their customers from obtaining information about the costs being used to set retail and wholesale electric rates. There are numerous examples of administrative review procedures for electric rates in other states. Since the Public Service Commission reviews rate increases of other utilities in Nebraska, it is appropriate to determine whether the Public Service Commission can conduct an administrative review process for electric rates in Nebraska.

This study shall include the following:

- (1) A review of the administrative rate review processes currently conducted by the Public Service Commission;
- (2) A review of administrative electric rate review processes from other states;
- (3) An examination of fixed charges and their impact on low-income customers, energy efficient and renewable energy efforts, and alternatives to fixed rate increases;
- (4) An examination of the disparity of rates between communities and whether consolidation of some power districts would reduce the costs that are passed on to customers;
- (5) Whether some communities are using municipal utility revenue to support other local government functions and whether this practice is appropriate;
- (6) The methods of increasing transparency of the process for setting rates for the benefit of the customers;
- (7) The impact of wholesale contracts on the process of setting retail rates; and
- (8) Such other and additional issues as are necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 600.** Introduced by Johnson, 23.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine alternatives for valuing agricultural land for property tax purposes. It is a goal of this study to identify valuation options that provide sustainability to landowners by more closely aligning assessed values of agricultural and horticultural land with measures of productivity and farm income while providing stability and growth in services and governmental responsibilities supported by property taxes. The Agriculture and Revenue Committees of the Legislature shall work jointly: to compile and review relevant literature including past studies conducted and data gathered by the Legislature, to examine the constitutional and legal context within which agricultural land valuation occurs, to develop data comparing changes in agricultural land valuation with measures of farm income and productivity, and to compile information regarding agricultural land valuation systems utilized in other states. In conducting the study, the committees shall consult with political subdivisions, agricultural producer organizations, tax policy experts in the public and private sectors, and appropriate state agencies.

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

1. That the Agriculture and Revenue Committees of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 601.** Introduced by Hilkemann, 4; Kolowski, 31; Krist, 10; McCollister, 20.

**PURPOSE:** In 2015, the City of Omaha initiated discussions with Douglas County and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to explore an opportunity to open an independent, full-service, accredited crime laboratory on the UNMC campus. The Attorney General joined the discussions in early 2016.

The facility would merge forensic testing currently offered by the Omaha Police Department, the Douglas County Sheriff, the State of Nebraska, and UNMC into one central facility, and provide timely and accurate evidence processing for prosecutors, investigators, suspects, and victims of crime. The crime laboratory would house UNMC academic and training programs, the Nebraska Organ Recovery System, the Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska, and

forensic pathology and offer services to law enforcement agencies throughout eastern Nebraska.

The purpose of this resolution is to review present facilities, determine the needs and options for developing a regional certified crime laboratory in the Omaha area, and examine the feasibility of the state becoming a partner.

The study shall be conducted by a select committee consisting of: (1) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee and one additional member of such committee, (2) the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee and one additional member of such committee, and (3) three at-large members appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

In conducting the study, the select committee shall consult with the City of Omaha, the Omaha Police Department, Douglas County, the Douglas County Sheriff, the Douglas County Attorney, the Attorney General, UNMC, and law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in eastern Nebraska that currently use the crime evidence analysis services of the state, Douglas County, and UNMC.

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

1. That a select committee of the Legislature shall be designated as provided in this resolution 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 602.** Introduced by Riepe, 12.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is to examine existing barriers to the delivery of health care services through telehealth technologies in Nebraska. This innovative health care delivery method has the potential to bring health care services to patients where provider shortages exist. Telehealth has been shown to reduce the cost of health care and increase efficiency through better management of chronic diseases, shared health professional staffing, reduced travel times, and fewer or shorter hospital stays. Telehealth offers strategies to overcome challenges to accessing care in Nebraska, as well as an opportunity to promote preventive care and wellness in an effort to reduce preventable and costly medical interventions.

The issues addressed by this study shall include the following:

(1) Strategies to expand the use of telecommunications or electronic technology by licensed health care providers for diagnosis, consultation, or treatment for medically underserved areas or populations;

(2) The potential use of telecommunications or electronic technology to gather and transmit health information between the patient and the health care provider to monitor a patient's health status;

(3) The potential use of telecommunications or electronic technology to deliver patient education and public health interventions;

(4) The potential use of telecommunications or electronic technology to provide continuing medical education and consultation resources for health care providers;

(5) The standards and technology systems necessary to promote interoperability among provider systems to allow efficient information sharing;

(6) The potential advantages of participation in an interstate compact to set parameters for a unified system of multistate licensing regarding telehealth services;

(7) The existing reimbursement structure for telehealth services in the Nebraska medicaid program and in private insurance plans in our state;

(8) The ongoing need to protect patient privacy; and

(9) The removal of existing legal and policy barriers to realizing the full potential of telehealth services in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services and the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committees of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 603.** Introduced by Haar, K., 21.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the issues faced by residents of mobile home communities. These residents face many issues, including risks from fire and severe weather, lack of access to shelters or safe rooms during inclement weather, other health risks, and the impacts of poverty.

The study committee shall examine the following:

(1) Demographic information related to rates of income and poverty, employment, age, and the health of such residents;

(2) Methods of addressing such health risks;

(3) Methods of providing access to shelters and safe rooms during inclement weather; and

(4) Such other issues as are necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 604.** Introduced by Davis, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study anomalies and inconsistencies in the practices utilized by county assessors in determining agricultural land value. The study committee should investigate how agricultural land categories are determined and valued at the county level. The study committee should also review the role of the property assessment division of the Department of Revenue in maintaining consistency among statewide county valuations.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 605.** Introduced by Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine urban redevelopment. The following issues shall be examined by this interim study:

- (1) Current urban redevelopment tools available to municipalities, including the Nebraska Advantage Transformational Tourism and Redevelopment Act;
- (2) Potential urban redevelopment tools proposed under LB 806 (2016), which would have adopted the Riverfront Development District Act; and
- (3) Other potential urban redevelopment tools that could be made available to municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 612.** Introduced by Agriculture Committee: Johnson, 23, Chairperson; Bloomfield, 17; Harr, B., 8; Kolterman, 24; Riepe, 12; Friesen, 34.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH 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.



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