

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 243**

Introduced by Carlson, 38; Hadley, 37; Hansen, 42; Harr, 8;  
Karpisek, 32; Price, 3; Schilz, 47; Wallman, 30.

Read first time January 11, 2011

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to water; to amend section 46-2,140, Reissue  
2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change membership  
3 provisions relating to the Republican River Basin Water  
4 Sustainability Task Force; to repeal the original  
5 section; and to declare an emergency.  
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1. Section 46-2,140, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3                   46-2,140 (1) The Republican River Basin Water  
4 Sustainability Task Force is created. The task force shall consist of  
5 twenty-two voting members, and except for the state agency  
6 representatives, the members shall be residents representing a cross-  
7 section of the Republican River basin. The Governor shall appoint two  
8 representatives from each natural resources district in the basin;  
9 four representatives from the irrigation districts in the basin; one  
10 representative each from the University of Nebraska Institute of  
11 Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Game and Parks Commission, the  
12 Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Natural Resources;  
13 one representative each from a school district, a city, a county, and  
14 a public power district in the basin; and two representatives from  
15 agriculture-related businesses in the Republican River basin. The  
16 chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall  
17 appoint ~~four~~ five ex officio, nonvoting members from the Legislature,  
18 two of whom are residents of the basin, ~~one who has~~ two of whom have  
19 a portion of his or her legislative district in the basin, and one  
20 who is the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the  
21 Legislature. For administrative and budgetary purposes only, the task  
22 force shall be housed within the Department of Natural Resources.  
23 Additional advisory support may be requested from appropriate federal  
24 and state agencies. Members of the task force who are not state  
25 employees shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses

1 incurred in carrying out their duties as members as provided in  
2 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

3 (2) The task force shall meet no less than quarterly and  
4 shall hire a trained facilitator to conduct its meetings. The  
5 purposes of the task force are to define water sustainability for the  
6 Republican River basin, develop and recommend a plan to help reach  
7 water sustainability in the basin, and develop and recommend a plan  
8 to help avoid a water-short year in the basin. The task force shall  
9 convene within thirty days after appointment of the members is  
10 completed to elect a chairperson and conduct such other business as  
11 deemed necessary.

12 (3) The task force shall present a preliminary report to  
13 the Governor and the Legislature on or before May 15, 2011, and a  
14 final report before May 15, 2012. This section terminates on June 30,  
15 2012.

16 Sec. 2. Original section 46-2,140, Reissue Revised  
17 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

18 Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
19 when passed and approved according to law.