

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 314

Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Langemeier, 23, Chairperson;
Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Dubas, 34; McCoy, 39; Schilz,
47; Fischer, 43; Harms, 48; Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: To study all possible sources of revenue that could be used to establish a dedicated funding source for water management activities in Nebraska. The water management activities in Nebraska are of critical importance and must be addressed to achieve and maintain economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, welfare, and sustainability of our water resources. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An examination of current Nebraska statutes relating to water use in Nebraska;

(2) An examination of the overall funding needs for water management activities in Nebraska, including an analysis of the resources needed to provide sufficient research and technical data, modeling, and studies to decision makers;

(3) An examination of LB 962 (2004), which put into statute proactive components of integrated management of surface water and ground water and the necessary funding to continue implementation and enforcement of the bill's policies; and

(4) An identification of all potential sources of funding to establish a dedicated source for water management activities in Nebraska.

This study shall be conducted by a select committee consisting of the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature, the chairperson of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature, the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, the members of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature, and other members as the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee deems appropriate.

The chairperson of the select committee shall be the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature or a member of the Natural Resources Committee selected by the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee.

In conducting the study, the select committee shall consult with the Department of Natural Resources, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Game and Parks Commission, representatives from natural resources districts, public power, municipalities, agricultural groups for every identifiable commodity, parks and recreation interests, environmental, hunting and fishing, and conservationist interests, irrigators representing Nebraska's river basins with an equal balance between surface water and ground water users, and any other group the select committee deems appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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 Legislature on or before December 1, 2011.