

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 507

Introduced by Sullivan, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the possibility of establishing a statewide Farm to School initiative in Nebraska similar to the Oklahoma Farm to School Program enacted in 2006, to encourage partnerships between Nebraska farmers and school districts to increase fresh local food availability in schools, and to provide students with hands-on agricultural learning opportunities. This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the Oklahoma Farm to School Program Act to determine the feasibility of a similar program in Nebraska;

(2) A review of Farm to School projects and programs in other states;

(3) A survey of Nebraska's school district food service directors to determine interest in purchasing locally produced food for use in school breakfast and lunch menus;

(4) A review of potential public and private agencies to partner and collaborate in developing a statewide Farm to School program that builds upon the pilot projects sponsored by the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative and the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society;

(5) A review of potential hands-on agricultural learning opportunities for students, which could include farm visits, school

gardens, indoor learning labs, and tasting and cooking demonstrations combined with educational and nutritional curriculum; and

(6) A review of the potential fiscal cost and impact of such a program at the state and local level.

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