

## ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 511**

Introduced by Sullivan, 41.

PURPOSE: To study Nebraska's kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) education standards and curricula to determine whether agriculture is incorporated as an essential component at all grade levels in a consistent and thorough manner to provide students with agricultural literacy. For purposes of this study, agricultural literacy means a basic understanding and knowledge of agriculture and agricultural industries, social and environmental aspects of agriculture, agriculture's contributions to the health, safety, and welfare of Nebraska citizens, and the economic impact of agriculture on the state economy.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An examination of existing statutes relating to education standards and curricula;

(2) An examination of education standards and curricula for K-12 students, including an analysis of the process, resources, research, technical data, and studies used by the State Department of Education to develop K-12 standards and curricula;

(3) An examination of K-12 education standards and curricula in surrounding states to determine whether the standards and curricula incorporate agriculture in a substantive manner; and

(4) The development of policy recommendations designed to direct and assist the State Department of Education with the incorporation of agriculture in future K-12 education standards and curricula.

The study shall be conducted by a joint committee consisting of the Agriculture and Education Committees of the Legislature. The chairpersons of the joint committee shall be the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature or a member of the Agriculture Committee selected by the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee and the chairperson of the Education Committee or a member of the Education Committee selected by the chairperson of the Education Committee.

In conducting the study, the joint committee shall consult with the State Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom Program, representatives from agricultural groups, including commodity boards, representatives from education groups, including educators, administrators, and local school board members, and any other groups the joint committee deems appropriate.

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

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

2. That the joint 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, 2012.