

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1107

Introduced by Garrett, 3; Bloomfield, 17.

Read first time January 20, 2016

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to elections; to state intent; to create the
- 2 Nebraska Election System Initiative; to require a report; to provide
- 3 a termination date; and to provide an operative date.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the vote tabulation and
2 ballot-marking equipment in use across the state is nearing the end of
3 its useful life. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish the
4 Nebraska Election System Initiative to examine the process for a voter to
5 cast a ballot in Nebraska, possible alternative processes for casting
6 ballots, and what equipment may be necessary to accommodate such
7 processes prior to replacing or updating the vote tabulation and ballot-
8 marking equipment in use in Nebraska.

9 (2) The Nebraska Election System Initiative is created. The
10 initiative shall examine:

11 (a) The method of polling sites and early voting provisions in use
12 in Nebraska and alternative methods of voting, including, but not limited
13 to, elections conducted by mail, vote centers, and Internet or online
14 voting;

15 (b) The equipment necessary to implement the voting methods examined
16 pursuant to subdivision (a) of this subsection;

17 (c) The impact on disabled, minority, and young voters of both the
18 voting methods and equipment used in Nebraska and any alternative methods
19 and equipment;

20 (d) The impact on candidates and campaigns for public office of both
21 the voting methods and equipment used in Nebraska and any alternative
22 methods and equipment; and

23 (e) The cost of replacing the vote tabulation systems used in
24 Nebraska or purchasing the equipment necessary for alternative voting
25 methods, including, but not limited to, information regarding lifespan
26 and maintenance costs.

27 (3) The initiative shall consist of the following members:

28 (a) The Secretary of State, who shall serve as the chairperson;

29 (b) The chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
30 Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee and the chairperson
31 of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her

1 designee;

2 (c) Two election commissioners from counties with a population of
3 more than one hundred thousand inhabitants appointed by the Clerks,
4 Register of Deeds, and Election Commissioners affiliate of the Nebraska
5 Association of County Officials;

6 (d) Two election commissioners or county clerks from counties with a
7 population of less than one hundred thousand inhabitants appointed by the
8 Clerks, Register of Deeds, and Election Commissioners affiliate of the
9 Nebraska Association of County Officials;

10 (e) One member from an organization advocating for individuals with
11 disabilities appointed by the Secretary of State;

12 (f) At least one member with a disability appointed by the Secretary
13 of State;

14 (g) At least two members of minority communities appointed by the
15 Secretary of State;

16 (h) One member who is a military veteran appointed by the Secretary
17 of State;

18 (i) One member of the Republican Party appointed by the state
19 chairperson of the Nebraska Republican Party;

20 (j) One member of the Democratic Party appointed by the state
21 chairperson of the Nebraska Democratic Party; and

22 (k) The executive director of the Nebraska Association of County
23 Officials, or his or her designee.

24 (4) The initiative shall meet within sixty days after January 1,
25 2017. For administrative and budget purposes, the initiative shall be
26 located in the office of the Secretary of State. Members shall be
27 reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in
28 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

29 (5) The initiative shall issue an electronic report with
30 recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2017.

31 (6) This section terminates on December 31, 2017.

1 Sec. 2. This act becomes operative on January 1, 2017.