

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 247

Introduced by Haar, 21; Baker, 30; Kolowski, 31; Nordquist, 7; Pansing Brooks, 28; Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the process of eliminating the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (NOGCC). The study shall include an examination of the current statutory duties of the NOGCC and whether other agencies or political subdivisions could assume the duties of the NOGCC.

The study shall include an examination of the following:

- (1) The history and current role of the NOGCC;
- (2) The statutory and regulatory duties currently under the jurisdiction of the NOGCC that could be better conducted by the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources, the Public Service Commission, natural resource districts, counties, or other appropriate agencies or political subdivisions;
- (3) Appropriate protections needed for landowners and local political subdivisions;
- (4) Appropriate protections needed for Nebraska's natural resources with particular emphasis on creating the highest standard for protection of groundwater;
- (5) The funding and financial assurance needed in order to protect the interests of taxpayers;
- (6) The statutes, rules, and regulations governing the NOGCC in comparison with the relevant statutes, rules, and regulations of other agencies and political subdivisions;
- (7) The statutes, rules, and regulations governing the NOGCC in comparison with those of other states with an emphasis on developing best practices for the State of Nebraska;

(8) The appropriate public hearing process needed to ensure that the people of the State of Nebraska have an open and meaningful way to have input into the process; and

(9) Any other issues necessary or appropriate for a complete and full examination of this issue.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of their study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.