

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 4

Introduced by Blood, 3; Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: Nitrate-nitrogen in the waterways is an ongoing issue for this state, as nitrates increasingly invade both our public and private water supplies. Human activity continues to introduce nitrates into waterways, with fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste, and nitrogen-bearing minerals in the soil all contributing to the problem. With the growing use of fertilizer, increasing livestock numbers, and expanding use of septic tanks, there is cause to be concerned about the elevated levels of nitrate-nitrogen and other chemicals impacting water quality in the state. Chemicals that are found in the waterways include chromium and chromium compounds and developmental toxins, such as lead and lead compounds, nitrates, phosphorous, and atrazine. Harmful bacteria, including E. coli, have also been detected. As commercial growth compounds the problem, it is important to understand what solutions or options may be available that can provide a cost-effective resolution to help protect Nebraska residents from negative health impacts.

This interim study shall specifically explore if the development of a more comprehensive water quality study is needed and if a nutrient management plan to improve water quality would benefit this state, including an analysis of best grasses for filtration and the best plantings for forests and crops in buffer areas.

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

1. That the Natural Resources 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.