

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 378

Introduced by Halloran, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the Livestock Brand Act and the role and mission of the Nebraska Brand Committee.

Specifically, the study shall:

(1)(a) Compare and describe similarities and differences between brand inspection services and mandates applied in Nebraska and those applied in other states where brand inspection is performed. Such comparison shall:

(b) Identify public or private entities responsible for performing brand inspection, carrying out livestock brand recording, and carrying out other related services and regulations;

(c) Identify any employment of law enforcement personnel or relationships with other law enforcement agencies by such entities; and

(d) Compare the points in commerce where brand inspection is performed, the cost of brand inspection, and how such cost is supported;

(2) Gather data, literature, and other information along with opinions from the Nebraska livestock industry relevant to the following questions:

(a) Whether brand recording, brand inspection, and related services and regulations under the Livestock Brand Act remains a cost-effective, essential, and valued tool for theft detection and prevention;

(b) Whether brand inspection services continue to have commercial utility to all segments of the cattle industry and provide a vital contribution to the integrity of the marketplace;

(c) Whether the Livestock Brand Act and the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Brand Committee, or any provisions thereof, impose unnecessary regulatory costs and burdens or result in competitive disadvantages for Nebraska's cattle industry as a whole or for segments of the cattle industry;

(d) Whether any revisions to the Livestock Brand Act and its implementation would eliminate or mitigate such burdens or competitive disadvantages;

(e) Whether alternative methods of organizing and providing brand inspection and related services would more cost effectively and more appropriately serve the cattle industry in Nebraska; and

(f) Whether the mission of the Nebraska Brand Committee should expand or evolve to provide other livestock identification recording and verification services that would be of value to the cattle industry; and

(3) Consult and involve various interested parties and organizations in its inquiry under this resolution, including, but not limited to, the Nebraska Brand Committee, cow-calf producers, livestock feeders, dairy producers, breeding stock producers, livestock auction market operators, livestock processors, and academic and industry experts in livestock identification methods and technologies as related to herd management, livestock marketing, and disease traceability.

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