

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 192

Introduced by Groene, 42.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review methods of water augmentation for preserving or enhancing stream flows, redirecting excess water, recharging ground water aquifers, or complying with compact and interstate agreements with an intent to develop statutory definitions and determine how water augmentation relates to section 46-252 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes and other permitting processes.

This interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Development of a method to integrate water augmentation projects into the existing permitting process;

(2) Determination of unique features of natural resources district water augmentation projects that need to be addressed in the permitting process;

(3) Determination of the best procedures to ensure that water augmentation projects are correctly planned to best fit into Nebraska's overall water management plan;

(4) Preparation of a cost-benefit analysis for implementation of a permitting system designed to integrate water augmentation projects into the existing process and the potential effect on taxpayers;

(5) Evaluation of whether natural resources districts should be exempt from liability for damage resulting from stream overflow caused by a water augmentation project;

(6) Identification of the number of current and potential water augmentation projects;

(7) Analysis of the role played by the Department of Natural Resources in enforcement, reporting, and oversight of water augmentation projects; and

(8) Development of statutory definitions applicable to water augmentation

projects.

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