

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 208

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the current funding mechanisms and operations of Nebraska's Mesonet system and to determine necessary changes in such funding and operations to ensure the future viability of the system.

Mesonet is a statewide weather monitoring and data collection system consisting of sixty-eight individual weather stations in forty-nine Nebraska counties. Each weather station collects real-time data on approximately thirty separate weather-related data points. Nebraska's agricultural producers rely upon this publicly available data for a variety of important production decisions.

Nebraska's Mesonet system lacks a clear and consistent source of state funding. The Department of Natural Resources, the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the state's natural resources districts, and other various entities have at times contributed funding to the system's operation.

The interim study shall include, but need not be limited to, a review of:

(1) The historical and current level of Mesonet funding and the sources from which that funding is derived;

(2) The current scale of the Mesonet system in Nebraska and whether such scale is consistent with the needs of Nebraska's agricultural producers and other current and potential users of Mesonet data;

(3) The current operational structure for the Mesonet system and whether changes in such structure would benefit Nebraska's agricultural producers and other current and potential users of Mesonet data; and

(4) Any other issues relevant to Nebraska's Mesonet system.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.