

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 366

Introduced by Christensen, 44; Avery, 28; Carlson, 38; White, 8.

PURPOSE: Past efforts to address water shortage have focused on buying water appropriation rights or otherwise limiting production agriculture. Research indicates that significant amounts of water can be saved through more efficient methods of irrigation. Center pivot irrigation uses forty to sixty percent less water than surface irrigation. Low-pressure irrigation systems lose approximately fifty percent less water to evaporation than high-pressure systems. Reducing or eliminating end guns results in significant water savings, while limiting the number of acres removed from production. Educating farmers for improved irrigation scheduling for first and last irrigation is effective and results in significant water savings. The Legislature should investigate the impact that improved irrigation efficiency could have on Nebraska's water shortage. The Legislature should also determine whether improved efficiency can be achieved through education of farmers on the most efficient uses of water, incentives to convert from surface irrigation to low-pressure irrigation systems, tax credits or other incentives to convert from high-pressure irrigation systems to low-pressure irrigation systems, promotion of development of more drought-resistant crop strains, and other methods of improving efficiency of water use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.