

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 653

FINAL READING

Introduced by Harms, 48; Mello, 5; Wightman, 36; Nantkes, 46;
Nordquist, 7; Sullivan, 41; Dubas, 34; Pirsch, 4.

Read first time January 21, 2009

Committee: Executive Board

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Legislature; to create the Legislature's
- 2 Planning Committee; to state findings; to provide powers
- 3 and duties; and to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) State government has significant challenges to face.

3 An ever-changing global economy, an aging population, outmigration

4 of educated young people, and constantly expanding needs for

5 services, among other issues, require that the Legislature

6 consider the long-term trends and factors affecting the welfare of

7 Nebraskans and the long-term implications of the decisions made by

8 the members of the Legislature;

9 (2) It is necessary for the Legislature to identify

10 emerging trends, assets, and challenges of the state;

11 (3) It is vital for Nebraska to have continuity in

12 policy;

13 (4) It is necessary to establish a process of long-term

14 state planning within the Legislature; and

15 (5) It is the duty of the Legislature to assess the

16 long-range needs of Nebraska and to adopt legislation which meets

17 those needs.

18 Sec. 2. The Legislature's Planning Committee is hereby

19 established as a special legislative committee to exercise the

20 authority and perform the duties provided for in this section. The

21 committee shall be comprised of the Speaker of the Legislature, the

22 chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, the

23 chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature,

24 and six other members of the Legislature to be chosen by

25 the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The executive

1 board shall ensure that the Legislature's Planning Committee
2 includes adequate geographic representation. The chairperson and
3 vice-chairperson of the committee shall be elected by majority vote
4 of the committee. The committee shall be subject to all rules
5 prescribed by the Legislature. The initial members of the committee
6 shall be appointed as soon as possible after the effective date
7 of this act, and thereafter the committee shall be appointed at
8 the beginning of each regular legislative session and shall meet
9 as needed. The committee shall have staff support from the various
10 legislative divisions and staff.

11 Sec. 3. The Legislature's Planning Committee shall:

12 (1) Collect and analyze data about Nebraska, including,
13 but not limited to, demographics, workforce, education, wages,
14 wealth, tax structure, revenue, natural resources, assets,
15 challenges, trends, and growth and efficiency of government;

16 (2) Identify long-term issues significant to the state;

17 (3) Set goals and benchmarks;

18 (4) Issue a yearly report of its findings; and

19 (5) Propose legislation.

20 Sec. 4. In order to fulfill its duties, the Legislature's
21 Planning Committee may:

22 (1) Hold public hearings;

23 (2) Obtain data and information from state agencies, the
24 University of Nebraska, and private entities that contract with the
25 state;

1 (3) Contract for assistance, including consultants, with
2 the approval of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council; and

3 (4) Exercise any other authority or powers as granted
4 from time to time by the executive board.

5 Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
6 when passed and approved according to law.