

## ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 182

Introduced by Dubas, 34.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to study the growing problem in recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical care providers. The Legislature recognizes that volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical care providers have provided fire suppression and emergency medical services to their local communities for over a century at only a fraction of the cost to the taxpayers that would have resulted from implementing a system of paid fire departments and paid emergency medical services. Many cities, villages, and rural areas could not afford the costs of maintaining their current level of fire suppression and emergency response services without the presence of a local pool of committed and dedicated volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical care providers. It is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of many Nebraska communities to encourage the recruitment and retention of such individuals. Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical care providers are relied upon by the entire State of Nebraska, including Nebraskans traveling throughout the state.

The Legislature finds that Nebraska communities that rely on volunteers to provide fire suppression and emergency medical services are faced with numerous economic and demographic

trends and conditions which make the recruitment and retention of qualified volunteers increasingly difficult and that, as a consequence, some volunteer departments are trying to cope with declining rosters of active volunteers.

The Legislature finds that the recruitment and retention of qualified men and women in fire suppression and emergency medical services are matters of statewide as well as local concern.

The issues to be examined by the interim study shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Economic incentives available to assist communities with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical care providers;

(2) Noneconomic incentives available to assist communities with the recruitment and retention of such volunteers; and

(3) The financial cost to Nebraska's cities, villages, and rural areas if such volunteer services cease to exist.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.