

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 373

Introduced by Flood, 19.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign is a national partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to: (1) Rid K-12 schools of inappropriate, outdated, unknown, and unnecessary chemicals; (2) raise awareness of the potential risks from mismanaged chemicals in schools; and (3) prevent future chemical mismanagement in schools through training, curriculum and policy changes, and long-term solutions; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Response Commission endorsed the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign as a critical need; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dave Heineman endorsed the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign on September 21, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign has resulted in the following accomplishments during its first 18 months: (1) 103 schools have participated in cleanout campaigns; (2) 62 schools are prepared for cleanout; (3) 6,497 chemicals (20,633 pounds) have been removed; (4) 3,457 pounds of highly hazardous chemicals have been removed; (5) 21 schools have had radioactive chemicals removed; (6) 887 pounds of mercury have been removed from 75 schools; (7) 46 schools had potential explosives

removed; and (8) the total cost of removal thus far has been \$136,600, all covered by grant funds; and

WHEREAS, schools that participated in the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign have benefited by: (1) Reducing the potential for chemical exposures, fires, and spills; (2) creating healthier school environments; (3) decreasing liability; (4) reducing the cost of proper disposal for taxpayers; (5) protecting the environment; and (6) protecting students, school staff, and the community.

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

1. That the Legislature supports the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign.

2. That the Legislature encourages Nebraska schools to adopt and perform responsible chemical management and build a school chemical cleanout campaign for the protection of students and school staff that is successful, sustainable, and self-sufficient.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Keep Nebraska Beautiful.