

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 478

Introduced by Christensen, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine proposals to create a statewide water planning commission or agency focusing on the development of a statewide water plan to manage Nebraska's water resources. Prior to Laws 2000, LB 900, which merged the Department of Water Resources and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, regulation and planning were separate. Currently, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for both regulation and planning. This study shall investigate how the creation of an independent entity focused on planning for Nebraska's future water uses by removing the planning responsibilities from DNR may bring a better balance between regulation and planning of our water resources and how best to establish and structure such a water planning entity. This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An examination of LB 1016, introduced in 2010, and other proposals to provide a statewide water planning entity;

(2) How such a water planning entity should be established or structured;

(3) How integrated management plans could be used in a statewide plan;

(4) What a statewide water plan should include; and

(5) An examination of what purposes and goals should be given to such a water planning entity, such as recommendations for the planning of future water uses across Nebraska, maintaining and maximizing current water supplies, creating a plan to manage water resources to encourage economic health and prosperity, forecasting, and how to create more flexibility and efficiency within our water management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST 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.