

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 884

Introduced by Sullivan, 41; Dubas, 34.

Read first time January 09, 2012

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to state findings; to create the
- 2 Agriculture Literacy Task Force; to provide duties; to
- 3 provide a termination date; and to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes that:

2 (a) Agriculture is the foundation of Nebraska's economy,
3 generating wealth and opportunity for Nebraskans through productive
4 utilization of the state's resources, natural and otherwise;

5 (b) Understanding agriculture and its contribution to the
6 state's overall well-being among its citizenry is of vital importance
7 to ensure the continuation of a viable agriculture industry;

8 (c) Despite the state's connection with and reliance on
9 agriculture for betterment of the state and its people, a minority of
10 its citizens are directly involved in production agriculture and
11 other industries upon which agriculture relies; and

12 (d) There is an inherent need to incorporate agriculture
13 literacy into the curriculum of Nebraska's schools.

14 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to develop an
15 Agriculture Literacy Task Force charged with examining current
16 educational standards and curricula to evaluate whether such
17 standards and curricula provide a meaningful understanding of
18 agriculture and its contribution to the state's overall well-being.

19 Sec. 2. (1) The Agriculture Literacy Task Force is
20 created. Members of the task force shall include:

21 (a) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the
22 Legislature or his or her designee;

23 (b) The chairperson of the Agriculture Committee of the
24 Legislature or his or her designee;

25 (c) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

- 1 (d) The Director of Agriculture or his or her designee;
2 (e) Two designees representing educational interests,
3 appointed by the chairperson of the Education Committee of the
4 Legislature;
5 (f) Two designees representing agricultural interests,
6 appointed by the chairperson of the Agriculture Committee of the
7 Legislature; and
8 (g) One designee from a private agriculture literacy
9 entity or organization, appointed by the chairperson of the
10 Agriculture Committee of the Legislature.
- 11 (2) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the
12 Legislature shall appoint the chairperson of the task force.
13 Administrative and staff support for the task force shall be provided
14 by the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature. The members of the
15 task force shall be appointed within thirty days after the effective
16 date of this act, and the task force shall meet at the call of the
17 chairperson of the task force within thirty days after its members
18 are appointed. Members of the task force shall serve without
19 compensation.
- 20 (3) The task force shall review existing state
21 educational standards and curricula to determine if such standards
22 and curricula provide a foundation for agriculture literacy that:
- 23 (a) Provides a basic understanding of what agriculture
24 is;
25 (b) Defines agriculture's role in providing food, fiber,

1 fuel, and shelter; and

2 (c) Identifies the economic impact and importance of
3 agriculture to the state's economy.

4 Sec. 3. On or before November 15, 2012, the Agriculture
5 Literacy Task Force shall provide a report to the Legislature which
6 enumerates and describes findings from such review and any
7 deficiencies in state standards and curricula. The task force shall
8 identify and make recommendations for actions as may be necessary to
9 bring such standards and curricula into alignment with the intent of
10 this resolution.

11 Sec. 4. This act terminates on December 31, 2012.

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