

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 247

Introduced by Haar, 21.

PURPOSE: To study issues related to the development of a comprehensive approach to reducing the environmental and health risks posed by the use or disposal of selected consumer products and maximizing the opportunities for residents to recycle these products at the end of their useful lives. Local governments and solid waste agencies are receiving growing requests from citizens for recycling alternatives for consumer products but face challenges in increasing fees or taxes to fund these services. In addition, many Nebraska residents do not have access to convenient and no-cost alternatives to landfill disposal for selected consumer products. For example, only thirty Nebraska communities sponsored electronic waste collection events in 2009-2010. State grant funds that have historically provided funding for community services such as these efforts have been reduced by the Legislature.

Alternative funding approaches are available. They include advanced disposal fees paid by consumers at the time they purchase products or extended producer responsibility initiatives that call on companies that make a product to have a responsibility for their goods at the "end of life." The study shall focus on examining the various strategies to maximize the diversion of consumer products from landfill disposal, examining available financing options, identifying consumer products of

concern, and determining the advantages of establishing an overall strategy and financing policy structure for selected consumer products in Nebraska.

The Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall convene an advisory group comprised of individuals from Nebraska businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government to provide technical expertise and advice relevant to the study. Topics to be studied shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Examine existing strategies and financing mechanisms utilized in North America which maximize the amount of recycling for selected consumer products. This includes evaluating voluntary versus state-required diversion programs;

(2) Identify the advantages and disadvantages of various strategies and financing mechanisms. This shall include possible costs and benefits associated with each option;

(3) Recommend a strategy, financing mechanism, and process for designating consumer products for legislative action;

(4) Recommend methods to identify and monitor progress toward maximizing the recycling of selected consumer products; and

(5) Identify potential priority products for future legislative consideration.

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