ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 580

Introduced by Haar, 21; Schumacher, 22.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the potential for research, development, and deployment of liquid fluoride thorium reactors (LFTR) in the State of Nebraska. The LFTR is a thermal breeder reactor which uses the thorium fuel cycle in a fluoride-based molten salt fuel to achieve high operating temperatures at atmospheric pressure. Thorium is currently an unused byproduct of rare earth mining operations and may have mining potential in Nebraska. The development of LFTR technology could produce new research opportunities for the University of Nebraska and new industrial opportunities for Nebraska businesses. The committee should study Nebraska's statutes on nuclear energy to see if new laws are needed to encourage the research, development, and use of liquid fluoride thorium reactors in Nebraska.

The study should include the investigation of potential public and private partnerships that would create research and industrial opportunities for this untapped energy source. The committee should pursue input from Nebraska's public power districts, the University of Nebraska, private industry, and other interested persons and organizations.

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