

LEGISLATIVE BILL 243

Approved by the Governor March 10, 2011

Introduced by Carlson, 38; Hadley, 37; Hansen, 42; Harr, 8; Karpisek, 32; Price, 3; Schilz, 47; Wallman, 30.

FOR AN ACT relating to water; to amend section 46-2,140, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change membership provisions relating to the Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 46-2,140, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-2,140 (1) The Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force is created. The task force shall consist of twenty-two voting members, and except for the state agency representatives, the members shall be residents representing a cross-section of the Republican River basin. The Governor shall appoint two representatives from each natural resources district in the basin; four representatives from the irrigation districts in the basin; one representative each from the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Game and Parks Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Natural Resources; one representative each from a school district, a city, a county, and a public power district in the basin; and two representatives from agriculture-related businesses in the Republican River basin. The chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall appoint ~~four~~ five ex officio, nonvoting members from the Legislature, two of whom are residents of the basin, ~~one who has~~ two of whom have a portion of his or her legislative district in the basin, and one who is the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature. For administrative and budgetary purposes only, the task force shall be housed within the Department of Natural Resources. Additional advisory support may be requested from appropriate federal and state agencies. Members of the task force who are not state employees shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as members as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(2) The task force shall meet no less than quarterly and shall hire a trained facilitator to conduct its meetings. The purposes of the task force are to define water sustainability for the Republican River basin, develop and recommend a plan to help reach water sustainability in the basin, and develop and recommend a plan to help avoid a water-short year in the basin. The task force shall convene within thirty days after appointment of the members is completed to elect a chairperson and conduct such other business as deemed necessary.

(3) The task force shall present a preliminary report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before May 15, 2011, and a final report before May 15, 2012. This section terminates on June 30, 2012.

Sec. 2. Original section 46-2,140, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.