

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 343

Introduced by Dubas, 34; Brasch, 16; Hadley, 37; McCoy, 39; Price, 3;
Watermeier, 1.

PURPOSE: To study the existing policy to supplement federal universal service support mechanisms and ensure that all Nebraskans, without regard to their location, have comparable accessibility to telecommunications services at affordable prices, recognizing the importance of broadband access for the state's economy to remain competitive, and to review changes to universal service at the federal level and changes in technology.

This study shall investigate the universal service and intercarrier compensation systems to maintain telecommunications services and extend broadband-capable infrastructure. Input shall be solicited from the Public Service Commission, regulated entities, broadband and telecommunications carriers, service users, and the public. Study topics may include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

(1) Modernization of the existing framework for contribution to and use of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund (NTUSF);

(2) The progress or results of the NTUSF broadband pilot program, dedicated wireless program, and broadband mapping grant project;

(3) Ability of Nebraska citizens, schools, businesses, and health care services to access Internet services;

(4) Effects on Nebraska of recent reforms to the federal Universal Service Fund and intercarrier compensation by the Federal Communications Commission;

(5) Other possible funding mechanisms for statewide broadband access ensuring comparable rates for all users; and

(6) Other states' approaches to fund affordable broadband access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.