

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 412

Introduced by Watermeier, 1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study ways to improve communication access for movie theaters in Nebraska to ensure all persons can fully experience the movie theater experience. The study committee shall consult with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and work with interested stakeholders to identify areas of concern, conduct necessary research, and explore ways to address communication access issues in movie theaters.

According to the Hearing Loss Association of America, approximately 20% of Americans report some degree of hearing loss. Using that statistic, approximately 376,000 people in Nebraska have some form of hearing loss. With over 60% of adults attending movies, it is the number one leisure activity in the United States. When Nebraskans who are deaf or hard of hearing attend a movie, the movie is often not in a format, such as open captioning, which provides communication access. Therefore, many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing are denied full participation in the movie experience.

The issues examined by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) What other states and the movie industry are doing to improve communication access in movie theaters;

(2) Complaints and concerns from the deaf and hard of hearing community about communication access in movie theaters; and

(3) Opportunities to share and address communication access issues among concerned stakeholders, including the deaf and hard of hearing community and movie theaters operating in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.