

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 522

Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, yet most cases are preventable. Skin cancer greatly affects quality of life, and it can be disfiguring or even deadly. Medical treatment for skin cancer creates substantial health care costs for individuals, families, and the nation. The number of people who have had skin cancer at some point in the last three decades is estimated to be higher than the number for all other cancers combined, and skin cancer incidence rates have continued to increase in recent years. In Nebraska, melanomas of the skin accounted for 1,781 diagnoses and 315 deaths between 2008 and 2012. The incidence of melanoma continues to increase significantly in Nebraska and throughout the United States.

Melanoma is responsible for the most deaths of all skin cancers, causing nearly 9,000 deaths each year. It is also one of the most common types of skin cancer among adolescents and young adults. Despite efforts to address skin cancer risk factors, such as inadequate sun protection and intentional tanning behaviors, skin cancer rates, including rates of melanoma, have continued to increase in Nebraska and the United States.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the issue of how to best educate the public and create awareness about the risks associated with sun exposure and ultraviolet radiation exposure. The study should also focus on how to create awareness surrounding sun-safety education and changes in behavior to promote sun-safe behavior. The committee should further examine this issue to determine what legislation or policy development may be necessary to address skin cancer prevention and ensure that comprehensive and accurate information is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

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 the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.