

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 380

Introduced by Brewer, 43; Bostelman, 23; Erdman, 47; Gragert, 40; Halloran, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the feasibility of creating a state meat inspection program. A state meat inspection program would allow cattle producers and small beef processors in this state to better feed Nebraska residents, greatly strengthen and secure the beef supply chain from cattle producers to consumers, and spur economic development in rural Nebraska. The study should seek to consult with and involve various interests and stakeholders in its inquiry under this resolution including, but not limited to, livestock producers, small plant processors, the Department of Agriculture, and industry and trade groups. The study should examine, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Different ways cattle producers and meat processors can take advantage of federal law and legislation to allow intrastate, interstate, and e-commerce sales of state-inspected meat;

(2) How cattle producers can develop their own branded beef programs and take advantage of available United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) producer grants;

(3) Courses of action that are safe so that the requirements of the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the USDA are met or exceeded, and which do not have a General Fund impact;

(4) Programs offered in other states to stimulate the expansion of local meat processing; and

(5) How to support investment in custom and small plant processing and expand direct-to-the-consumer marketing of inspected meat.

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

1. That the Agriculture 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.