

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 136

Introduced by Brewer, 43; Clements, 2; Erdman, 47; Gragert, 40; Halloran, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine, understand, and evaluate the causes, impacts, and costs of rolling electrical power outages during the extreme weather events of February 2021. The study shall also identify and evaluate the differing effects, if any, of public power district membership in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the costs and benefits of SPP membership.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) The February 2021 rolling power outages to clearly determine the cause, the impact on generation resources, and the necessity to curtail power usage in Nebraska as a result of the event;

(2) The financial impact of rolling power outages on communities, businesses, and residents in Nebraska;

(3) The governing structures, business models, revenue structures and generation diversity of power entities in Nebraska and regional transmission organizations that are available to Nebraska entities;

(4) How transparency, visibility, and public input processes can be improved in SPP decisionmaking and what role Nebraska's rural electrical systems and public power districts play when emergency decisions to shut off electricity are made;

(5) To what degree each public power district and associated regional transmission organizations rely on accredited capacity in Nebraska and by out-of-state members, and to what degree, if any, those accredited capacity sources played a part in the rolling power outages of February 2021;

(6) The effect, if any, changes made by Laws 2016, LB824, had on power generation in the state;

(7) The costs, benefits, risks, and disadvantages of public power

participation in regional transmission organizations;

(8) The authority of public power districts within the state of Nebraska to join and enter into agreements with regional transmission organizations such as SPP;

(9) Any weather-induced generation reduction from the extreme cold of February 2021 and what impact it had on energy resources; and

(10) Any alternatives and mitigation measures to avoid rolling power outages in Nebraska in the future, including requirements to develop robust baseload capacity in the regional marketplace and the degree to which it may be helpful to develop micro-grids using advanced nuclear reactor technology in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Natural Resources 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.