

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 141

Introduced by DeBoer, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to create a select interim committee of the Legislature, to be known as the School Finance Study Committee, to conduct an indepth study of the financing of the public elementary and secondary schools in the state. The committee shall consist of eleven members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. Members shall include two members of the Education Committee of the Legislature, two members of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, two members of the Legislature's Planning Committee, two members of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature, and three at-large members of the Legislature. At least three members shall be appointed from each congressional district. The chairperson of the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be one of the members appointed from such committee and shall serve as the chairperson of the School Finance Study Committee.

The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) Methods of financing public elementary and secondary schools, including methods used in other states, which would provide equitable educational opportunities across the state and offer alternatives to a heavy reliance on property tax;

(2) The option of using a measure of income as a component in the financing of public elementary and secondary schools;

(3) The option of using sales tax as a component in the financing of public elementary and secondary schools, including, but not limited to, an examination of the experience of any other states with such option;

(4) Financing issues as they relate to the quality and performance of public elementary and secondary schools;

(5) Funding methods for public prekindergarten services;

(6) Funding methods for college-readiness and career-readiness programs, including, but not limited to, programs of excellence, dual-enrollment courses, and career academies;

(7) The costs and resources necessary to meet the diverse and growing needs of students across the state, including, but not limited to, the needs of poverty students and limited English proficiency students;

(8) Methods used by other states to fund public elementary and secondary school infrastructure needs; and

(9) Other issues related to public elementary and secondary school finance as necessary and as determined by the chairperson of the committee.

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

1. That a select interim committee of the Legislature, to be known as the School Finance Study Committee, shall be designated as provided in this resolution 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.