

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 164**

Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine problem solving courts. For almost two decades, the Legislature has worked with key stakeholders in each branch of government to authorize, invest in, and expand problem solving courts as a sound alternative to the traditional criminal justice and juvenile justice systems. Problem solving courts are heralded for their effect on reducing recidivism, improving outcomes, lessening taxpayer burdens, and advancing public safety. Problem solving courts in Nebraska are subject to rules promulgated by the Supreme Court and utilize innovative court programs through which individuals and families thrive and all Nebraska communities become safer.

Problem solving courts and similar programs relating to alternatives to detention and incarceration, including, but not limited to, drug courts, veteran treatment courts, mental health courts, mediation courts, reentry courts, and diversionary programs, have been used in Nebraska and in many other jurisdictions.

This study may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) An assessment of barriers to participation in problem solving courts;
- (2) An identification of the number of Nebraskans who could benefit from problem solving courts;
- (3) An identification of other problem solving courts that could be developed;
- (4) An examination of the fiscal effect of problem solving courts on individuals and to Nebraska;
- (5) An examination of the fiscal effect of incarceration on individuals and to Nebraska;

(6) An assessment of how to best expand innovative programs throughout Nebraska;

(7) An identification of how additional criminal defendants can participate in such programs throughout the state;

(8) A determination of legislation necessary to encourage increased participation in such programs;

(9) An examination of the extent to which problem solving courts are a permanent component of the judicial system in Nebraska; and

(10) An investigation into other areas of importance to the Legislature as it contemplates investment in the prison system of Nebraska and examines reformation of the criminal justice system and sentencing reform.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.