

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 199**

Introduced by Slama, 1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the creation of a rural economic development program to encourage larger development projects to locate in rural parts of Nebraska and reduce barriers to project approval and completion.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the United States' need for reliable, domestic supply chains for essential products and services. The pandemic is likely to have accelerated the already burgeoning trend of vertical integration for food processing and certainly demonstrated that e-commerce, telework, and other shifts in business and industry practices can provide more flexibility for individuals to live and work in rural areas without sacrificing employment opportunities.

Unfortunately, complicated regulations and labor shortages can impede large-scale development in rural areas. The state must act swiftly to identify opportunities to improve its appeal to companies considering locating in rural areas and to capitalize on these trends in order to grow the state's economy and preserve rural communities.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance 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.