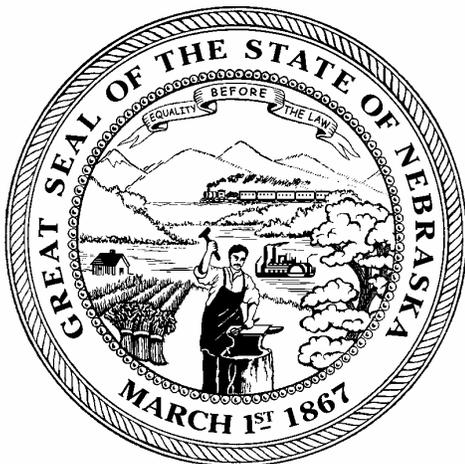


**INTERIM
STUDY
RESOLUTIONS**

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

2007



03-02-01-2007

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2007**

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*Studies being considered jointly.

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Business and Labor
- LR 67 Interim study to examine issues relating to public and private highway and rail crossings
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- LR 74 Interim study to analyze the fiscal impact of making K-12 public school teachers employees of the State of Nebraska
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- LR 85 Interim study to direct the Health and Human Services Committee to study the availability of autism treatment programs in the state
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- LR 86 Interim study to examine the method used to verify proof of automobile liability insurance and to examine ways to increase compliance
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- LR 89 Interim study to examine how discarded televisions and their components could be recycled rather than discarded in landfills
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- LR 90 Interim study to examine the requirements to license, register, purchase plates, verify proof of insurance, tax, and assess fees on motor vehicles
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- LR 104 Interim study to examine ways for the State of Nebraska to respectfully honor its citizens who have served their country and died in combat
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- LR 122 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
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- LR 127 Interim study to review the state funds under the responsibility of the state investment officer
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- LR 128 Interim study to examine administrative processes and laws which would permit the establishment of a parent and child relationship in the event of a gestational surrogacy
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- LR 129 Interim study to examine the Base Realignment and Closure process and realignment of United States Department of Defense installations and possible responses required by the state Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
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- LR 132 Interim study of funding and distribution of transit aid related to the local operating subsidy of transit vehicles
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- LR 133 Interim study to review issues under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee
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- LR 134 Interim study to examine agricultural development as an element of economic development
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- LR 135 Interim study to catalog programs of agricultural research and public sources of funding for agricultural research and to examine critical research priorities
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- LR 136 Interim study to examine means of stimulating expansion of the biodiesel fuel industry
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- LR 137 Interim study to examine the feasibility of redesigning the livestock friendly county program
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- LR 138 Interim study to examine means of fully cash funding the duties of the Department of Agriculture under the Noxious Weed Control Act
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- LR 139 Interim study to examine constraints to expanded deployment of systems for recovery of energy and other useful byproducts from animal wastes associated with confined livestock operations
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- LR 140 Interim study of federal grant funds being used by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry
Agriculture

- LR 141 Interim study to examine the inability of agricultural equipment dealers to serve consumer demand for certain tractor models not permitted for sale in Nebraska
Agriculture
- LR 142 Interim study to undertake a review of the Nebraska Industrial Development Corporation Act
Urban Affairs
- LR 143 Interim study to review issues raised by LR 2CA which proposed to broaden authority for cities and counties to use tax increment financing
Urban Affairs
- LR 144 Interim study to examine issues relating to dangerous dogs
Judiciary
- LR 145 Interim study to examine the Income Withholding for Child Support Act
Judiciary
- LR 146 Interim study to examine the issue of creating a voluntary registry for interior designers
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- LR 147 Interim study of the Nebraska liquor law pertaining to transportation of liquor into the state
General Affairs
- LR 148 Interim study to examine Nebraska's cemetery statutes
General Affairs
- LR 149 Interim study of recent federal lawsuits dealing with the right of states under the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to regulate alcohol
General Affairs
- LR 150 Interim study to review the manner in which Nebraska's first class cities provide fire protection and emergency response services
Urban Affairs
- LR 151 Interim study to examine the statutory authority for representation on and the size of certain city governing bodies
Urban Affairs
- LR 152 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee
Urban Affairs

- LR 153* Interim study to examine procedures used by the State Board of Health when disciplining medical professionals or allowing medical professionals to practice in the state
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- LR 155 Interim study to examine recommendations to provide the workforce necessary to provide quality in-home services
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- LR 156 Interim study relating to people with developmental disabilities and proposed changes to the methodology used for payment of service providers
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- LR 160 Interim study to examine the results of the law enforcement retirement survey
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- LR 161 Interim study to examine the manner in which agencies of state government are providing public notice of their intent to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule or regulation under the Administrative Procedure Act
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- LR 162 Interim study to examine the overall impact of the area agency on aging programs on the health of the citizens
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- LR 163 Interim study to examine ways to increase the pool of potential foster parents
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- LR 164 Interim study to examine traditional benefits under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs and their effectiveness
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- LR 165 Interim study to examine the service needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and identify cost-effective system enhancements for prevention and intervention
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- LR 166 Interim study to examine the need for increased and uniform insurance coverage for cochlear implant surgeries and auditory rehabilitation services
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- LR 167 Interim study to evaluate the scope of state resources that should be devoted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing
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- LR 168 Interim study to examine issues relating to Nebraska's emergency protective custody procedures
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- LR 169* Interim study to examine public school funding in Nebraska
Education/Revenue
- LR 170 Interim study to examine issues relating to the gardasil vaccine that is used to prevent certain deadly strains of human papillomavirus
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- LR 171 Interim study to examine research funding alternatives for updating the student information systems at the University of Nebraska
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- LR 172 Interim study to examine the Nebraska state college system's existing student information system
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- LR 173 Interim study to review the adequacy of funding for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis
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- LR 174 Interim study to examine coordination between natural resources districts, state agencies, and state and federal government with respect to surface water flows during times of great need
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- LR 175 Interim study to examine every major river and stream in Nebraska with respect to stream flow
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- LR 177 Interim study to examine the ground water model development as set forth from the Final Settlement Stipulation of the Republican River Compact regarding inputs and accounting
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- LR 178 Interim study to examine the nature and consistency of local firearm regulation
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- LR 179 Interim study to consider alternatives available to the Department of Motor Vehicles in implementing the REAL ID Act of 2005
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 180 Interim study to examine laws relating to titling, registration, and operation of off-road vehicles
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 181 Interim study to examine the current municipal-provided wireless Internet services and their overall success
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 182 Interim study to examine retirement benefits provided to public employees
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- LR 183 Interim study to examine security matters at the Nebraska State Capitol
Executive Board
- LR 184 Interim study to examine the legislative appropriations process
Appropriations
- LR 185 Interim study to examine the film industry in Nebraska as it relates to economic development and employment
Business and Labor
- LR 186 Interim study to examine laws regarding the authority for metropolitan class cities to collect occupation taxes
Urban Affairs
- LR 187 Interim study to examine ways to maximize rural economic development benefits of agricultural land and commodities
Agriculture

- LR 188 Interim study of the duties of Nebraska's Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee
Agriculture
- LR 189 Interim study to examine exempting car washes from sales tax
Revenue
- LR 190 Interim study to examine legalizing the sale of all liquor on Sundays
General Affairs
- LR 191 Interim study to examine the effect of lowering the property tax lid on cities of the second class and villages
Revenue
- LR 192 Interim study to examine the practice of mail solicitations by issuers of bank credit cards
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR 193 Interim study to review matters under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee
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- LR 194 Interim study to examine policy changes that would encourage more Nebraskans to avail themselves of opportunities for higher education in the state
Education
- LR 195 Interim study to examine and provide recommendations relating to the state's operation of facilities that provide twenty-four-hour care to the citizens of Nebraska
Health and Human Services
- LR 196 Interim study to review the findings of the Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan Update
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- LR 197 Interim study of the workers' compensation program to examine issues relating to the vocational rehabilitation program
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- LR 198 Interim study to examine information collected from flow meters installed to measure ground water use and surface water use
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- LR 199 Interim study to examine the existing first degree sexual assault and statutory rape statute
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- LR 200 Interim study to examine the guardian ad litem statutes and proposals for reform of the juvenile legal services system
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- LR 201 Interim study to examine policies with regard to non-English speaking families in the Nebraska child welfare system
Health and Human Services
- LR 202 Interim study to harmonize Nebraska's state children's health insurance program to changes allowed by the federal State Children's Health Insurance program
Health and Human Services
- LR 203 Interim study to examine statewide behavioral health services
Health and Human Services
- LR 204 Interim study to prepare additional legislation relating to the Uniform Credentialing Act
Health and Human Services
- LR 205 Interim study to provide development of additional recommendations relating to implementation of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act
Health and Human Services
- LR 206 Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to the Welfare Reform Act and public assistance programs
Health and Human Services
- LR 207 Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to implementation of the Medicaid Reform Plan and Medical Assistance Act
Health and Human Services
- LR 208 Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to the reorganization of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Health and Human Services
- LR 210 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee
Natural Resources
- LR 219 Interim study to examine the history of stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning
Judiciary

EXECUTIVE BOARD POLICY

Executive Board Referral

- A. As a general practice, the Executive Board will refer interim study resolutions to the appropriate committees based upon subject matter jurisdiction.
- B. Resolutions that call for the creation of a select committee will be reviewed by the Executive Board. Depending upon the availability of staff resources, subject matter jurisdiction, and legislator interest, the Executive Board may establish a select committee to undertake the study.
- C. The Executive Board shall retain its traditional prerogatives to consider and refer study proposals arising from extraordinary circumstances after the deadlines.

Committee Action

Legislative rules (Rule 4, Section 3(c)) require study resolutions be prioritized by the chairperson of the committee to which they are referred, and a report on those priorities shall be filed with the Clerk. Each committee shall file with the Clerk, his or her committee's study plan for the highest prioritized interim studies referenced to such committee. This prioritization will in no way limit the committee's traditional prerogative to conduct hearings and oversee matters that are within their subject matter jurisdiction.

Rule 4, Section 3(g) of the Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature requires that on or before December 1 of each year, each standing and select interim committee file a report on the disposition of the study resolutions referred to them.

(The following referral list reflects the committee prioritization of the resolutions referred to them.)

INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE REFERRALS

*Studies being considered jointly.

Agriculture: Erdman (C), Dubas (VC), Chambers, Dierks, Karpisek, McDonald, Preister, Wallman

- LR 76 Interim study to examine the rural economic development potential of wind energy development
Agriculture
- LR 93 Interim study to examine the impact on production agriculture resulting from judicial decisions ruling Initiative 300 unconstitutional
Agriculture
- LR 106* Interim study to examine the effects of vegetation on river-flow in river basins in Nebraska
Natural Resources/Agriculture
- LR 133 Interim study to review issues under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee
Agriculture
- LR 136 Interim study to examine means of stimulating expansion of the biodiesel fuel industry
Agriculture
- LR 134 Interim study to examine agricultural development as an element of economic development
Agriculture
- LR 135 Interim study to catalog programs of agricultural research and public sources of funding for agricultural research and to examine critical research priorities
Agriculture
- LR 137 Interim study to examine the feasibility of redesigning the livestock friendly county program
Agriculture
- LR 138 Interim study to examine means of fully cash funding the duties of the Department of Agriculture under the Noxious Weed Control Act
Agriculture
- LR 140 Interim study of federal grant funds being used by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry
Agriculture

- LR 187 Interim study to examine ways to maximize rural economic development benefits of agricultural land and commodities
Agriculture
- LR 139 Interim study to examine constraints to expanded deployment of systems for recovery of energy and other useful byproducts from animal wastes associated with confined livestock operations
Agriculture
- LR 141 Interim study to examine the inability of agricultural equipment dealers to serve consumer demand for certain tractor models not permitted for sale in Nebraska
Agriculture
- LR 188 Interim study of the duties of Nebraska's Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee
Agriculture

Appropriations: Heidemann (C), Kruse (VC), Engel, Fulton, Harms, Nantkes, Nelson, Synowiecki, Wightman

- LR 171 Interim study to examine research funding alternatives for updating the student information systems at the University of Nebraska
Appropriations
- LR 172 Interim study to examine the Nebraska state college system's existing student information system
Appropriations
- LR 173 Interim study to review the adequacy of funding for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis
Appropriations
- LR 167 Interim study to evaluate the scope of state resources that should be devoted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing
Appropriations
- LR 184 Interim study to examine the legislative appropriations process
Appropriations
- LR 74 Interim study to analyze the fiscal impact of making K-12 public school teachers employees of the State of Nebraska
Appropriations

Banking, Commerce and Insurance: Pahls (C), Langemeier (VC), Carlson, Christensen, Gay, Hansen, Pankonin, Pirsch

- LR 109 Interim study to examine issues relating to the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR 119* Interim study to review the availability of cost estimates in health care pricing and possible legislation to provide good faith estimates of costs by health care providers and insurers to a consumer upon request
Health and Human Services/Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR 100 Interim study to determine whether the insurance laws should be amended to allow property and casualty insurance producers to charge fees for services they perform
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- LR 192 Interim study to examine the practice of mail solicitations by issuers of bank credit cards
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- LR 111 Interim study to examine issues relating to the Burial Pre-Need Sale Act
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR 110 Interim study to examine whether amendments should be recommended to the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR 166 Interim study to examine the need for increased and uniform insurance coverage for cochlear implant surgeries and auditory rehabilitation services
Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Business and Labor: Cornett (C), Rogert (VC), Chambers, Lathrop, McGill, Wallman, White

- LR 197 Interim study of the workers' compensation program to examine issues relating to the vocational rehabilitation program
Business and Labor
- LR 185 Interim study to examine the film industry in Nebraska as it relates to economic development and employment
Business and Labor

LR 159 Interim study to examine the public policies under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
Business and Labor

LR 15 Interim study to examine the impact of a waiver filed by Union Pacific before the Federal Railroad Administration on public safety
Business and Labor

Education: Raikes (C), Kopplin (VC), Adams, Ashford, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson

LR 126 Interim study to examine high ability learner programs and the effectiveness of the program format and funding level
Education

LR 169* Interim study to examine public school funding in Nebraska
Education/Revenue

LR 193 Interim study to review matters under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee
Education

LR 194 Interim study to examine policy changes that would encourage more Nebraskans to avail themselves of opportunities for higher education in the state
Education

Executive Board: Engel (C), Preister (VC), Chambers, Erdman, Flood, Janssen, Kopplin, McDonald, Stuthman, Heidemann

LR 183 Interim study to examine security matters at the Nebraska State Capitol
Executive Board

General Affairs: McDonald (C), Karpisek (VC), Dierks, Dubas, Erdman, Friend, Janssen, Preister

LR 149 Interim study of recent federal lawsuits dealing with the right of states under the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to regulate alcohol
General Affairs

LR 148 Interim study to examine Nebraska's cemetery statutes
General Affairs

LR 147 Interim study of the Nebraska liquor law pertaining to transportation of liquor into the state
General Affairs

LR 190 Interim study to examine legalizing the sale of all liquor on Sundays
General Affairs

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs: Aguilar (C), Mines (VC), Adams, Avery, Friend, Karpisek, Pahls, Rogert

LR 120 Interim study to examine the cost of public employee health plans at all levels of government
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

LR 78 Interim study to examine issues relating to the Open Meetings Act
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LR 122 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
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LR 161 Interim study to examine the manner in which agencies of state government are providing public notice of their intent to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule or regulation under the Administrative Procedure Act
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LR 129 Interim study to examine the Base Realignment and Closure process and realignment of United States Department of Defense installations and possible responses required by the state
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LR 146 Interim study to examine the issue of creating a voluntary registry for interior designers
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Health and Human Services: Johnson (C), Gay (VC), Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Pankonin, Stuthman

- LR 157 Interim study of the foster care system
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- LR 163 Interim study to examine ways to increase the pool of potential foster parents
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- LR 201 Interim study to examine policies with regard to non-English speaking families in the Nebraska child welfare system
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- LR 206 Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to the Welfare Reform Act and public assistance programs
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- LR 98 Interim study to evaluate how child support disregards/pass-throughs impact the economic self sufficiency of participants in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs
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- LR 164 Interim study to examine traditional benefits under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs and their effectiveness
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- LR 162 Interim study to examine the overall impact of the area agency on aging programs on the health of the citizens
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- LR 205 Interim study to provide development of additional recommendations relating to implementation of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act
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- LR 168 Interim study to examine issues relating to Nebraska's emergency protective custody procedures
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- LR 207 Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to implementation of the Medicaid Reform Plan and Medical Assistance Act
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- LR 196 Interim study to review the findings of the Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan Update
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- LR 130 Interim study to examine requirements necessary to implement an effective statewide comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program
Health and Human Services
- LR 170 Interim study to examine issues relating to the gardasil vaccine that is used to prevent certain deadly strains of human papillomavirus
Health and Human Services

Judiciary: Ashford (C), Lathrop (VC), Chambers, McDonald, McGill, Pedersen, Pirsch, Schimek

- LR 219 Interim study to examine the history of stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning
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- LR 199 Interim study to examine the existing first degree sexual assault and statutory rape statute
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- LR 200 Interim study to examine the guardian ad litem statutes and proposals for reform of the juvenile legal services system
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- LR 99 Interim study to examine policies relating to the incarceration of persons with mental illness in Nebraska's correctional facilities, including juvenile facilities
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- LR 112 Interim study to determine the need for additional financial assistance to address staffing issues and treatment of inmate substance abuse and mental health needs within the Dept. of Correctional Services
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- LR 153* Interim study to examine procedures used by the State Board of Health when disciplining medical professionals or allowing medical professionals to practice in the state
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- LR 178 Interim study to examine the nature and consistency of local firearm regulation
Judiciary
- LR 97 Interim study to direct the Judiciary Committee to review the North Carolina statewide guardian ad litem system
Judiciary
- LR 91 Interim study to examine if more can be done through legislation to protect citizens from the crime of identity theft
Judiciary

Natural Resources: Louden (C), Hudkins (VC), Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Fischer, Kopplin, Wallman

- LR 108 Interim study to examine issues relating to the laws governing the generation of electric power using renewable energy
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- LR 79 Interim study to examine net-metering and draft legislation which creates a net-metering program in Nebraska
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- LR 105 Interim study to examine uranium mining with respect to water consumption in, expansion in, and contracts with the State of Nebraska
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- LR 107 Interim study to examine the effects of the elimination of state park entry permit fees on the state park system
Natural Resources
- LR 210 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee
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Nebraska Retirement Systems: Synowiecki (C), White (VC), Erdman, Heidemann, Karpisek, Loudon

- LR 101 Interim study to review the actuarial assumptions used to perform the annual actuarial valuation for the retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board
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- LR 160 Interim study to examine the results of the law enforcement retirement survey
Nebraska Retirement Systems
- LR 127 Interim study to review the state funds under the responsibility of the state investment officer
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- LR 102 Interim study to examine the employee retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board
Nebraska Retirement Systems
- LR 182 Interim study to examine retirement benefits provided to public employees
Nebraska Retirement Systems

Revenue: Janssen (C), Dierks (VC), Burling, Cornett, Langemeier, Preister, Raikes, White

- LR 114 Interim study to examine the burden of proof and standard of review of valuation cases appealed to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission
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- LR 116 Interim study to examine residential, business, and agricultural tax burdens in Nebraska
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- LR 115 Interim study to examine an income-based method of placing a value on agricultural and horticultural land
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- LR 191 Interim study to examine the effect of lowering the property tax lid on cities of the second class and villages
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- LR 189 Interim study to examine exempting car washes from sales tax
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Transportation and Telecommunications: Fischer (C), Stuthman (VC), Aguilar, Hudkins, Loudon, Mines, Pedersen, Schimek

- LR 67 Interim study to examine issues relating to public and private highway and rail crossings
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- LR 179 Interim study to consider alternatives available to the Department of Motor Vehicles in implementing the REAL ID Act of 2005
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 86 Interim study to examine the method used to verify proof of automobile liability insurance and to examine ways to increase compliance
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 181 Interim study to examine the current municipal-provided wireless Internet services and their overall success
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 180 Interim study to examine laws relating to titling, registration, and operation of off-road vehicles
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 90 Interim study to examine the requirements to license, register, purchase plates, verify proof of insurance, tax, and assess fees on motor vehicles
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 124 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR 132 Interim study of funding and distribution of transit aid related to the local operating subsidy of transit vehicles
Transportation and Telecommunications

Urban Affairs: Friend (C), McGill (VC), Cornett, Janssen, Lathrop, Rogert, White

- LR 150 Interim study to review the manner in which Nebraska's first class cities provide fire protection and emergency response services
Urban Affairs
- LR 143 Interim study to review issues raised by LR 2CA which proposed to broaden authority for cities and counties to use tax increment financing
Urban Affairs

- LR 151 Interim study to examine the statutory authority for representation on and the size of certain city governing bodies
Urban Affairs
- LR 142 Interim study to undertake a review of the Nebraska Industrial Development Corporation Act
Urban Affairs
- LR 186 Interim study to examine laws regarding the authority for metropolitan class cities to collect occupation taxes
Urban Affairs
- LR 152 Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee
Urban Affairs
- LR 94* Interim study to examine issues relating to the rapid urbanization of the Papillion Creek Watershed
Natural Resources/Urban Affairs

INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 15. Introduced by Business and Labor Committee: Cornett, 45, Chairperson; McGill, 26; Rogert, 16; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: To examine the impact of a waiver filed by Union Pacific before the Federal Railroad Administration on public safety in the State of Nebraska. Such waiver, if granted, would exempt Union Pacific from compliance with safety and inspection requirements for trains entering the United States from Mexico. Such trains may travel up to 1,500 miles in the United States prior to being inspected by skilled United States railroad inspectors or regulators. Union Pacific claims that the trains, after being inspected in Mexico, will travel only twelve miles into the United States from the border and then be available for a United States safety inspection. But existing federal safety regulations do not require a second test until the train travels 1,500 miles.

Specifically, Union Pacific is seeking a waiver from existing federal safety regulations which require a brake system check and other mechanical safety checks on trains originating in Mexico and interchanged with Union Pacific at Laredo, Texas. Currently, such mechanical safety checks must be performed on United States soil by American workers who have been trained with United States Government Standards under the observation of the Federal Railroad Administration.

A similar waiver application by Union Pacific was filed in 2004, and subsequently denied by the Federal Railroad Administration, but a subsequent application for the same waiver leniency has been filed, again, with the Federal Railroad Administration, by Union Pacific.

Issues to be considered as part of this study include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The government of Mexico has not adopted inspection and testing regulations that are compatible with United States standards. Furthermore, the Federal Railroad Administration cannot impose sanctions on the Mexican railroad for violations of safety regulations because there is no enforcement agreement between Mexico and the administration;
- (2) Available data and analysis regarding the nature and extent of implications on security vulnerabilities of the rail system of the United States if a waiver is granted that will weaken border inspections;
- (3) A review of the safety record of the company requesting the waiver regarding derailments and fatalities;
- (4) An examination of trains carrying rail cars of deadly hazardous material, many of which originate in Mexico, and allegedly have content inspections at the United States border with Mexico; and
- (5) The political unrest in Mexico and the likelihood that the unrest may cause Mexico to become a sanctuary for terrorists.

Union Pacific is a Nebraska-based corporation which operates thousands of trains per year through the State of Nebraska. It is critically important to national security, the safety of Nebraskans, and all Americans that such trains which travel on the United States rail infrastructure are inspected by American professionals following United States Inspection Standards.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 67. Introduced by Transportation and Telecommunications Committee: Fischer, 43, Chairperson; Aguilar, 35; Hudkins, 21; Loudon, 49; Mines, 18; Pedersen, 39; Schimek, 27; Stuthman, 22; and Dubas, 34.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine issues relating to public and private highway and rail crossings. Current inventory and train movement information indicates the following:

(1) At the present time there exists in this state three thousand three hundred thirty-one public and two thousand five hundred forty private crossings. There also exists a total of three thousand three hundred ninety miles of railroad trackage; and

(2) At the present time, approximately three hundred twenty trains per day operate within or through the state on high-density Class 1 railroad lines.

The issues to be specifically examined by the study shall include crossing safety and preventing the blockage of crossings by parked trains. Such study shall consider the appropriate public policy balance between the efficient movement of commerce by rail and the promotion and preservation of public convenience and safety upon public streets and highways.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 74. Introduced by Hudkins, 21.

PURPOSE: Funding for the public K-12 educational system is an ongoing issue for the Legislature. For more than a decade, the Legislature has consistently started the process of funding our educational school system by first looking at the ability of a local school system to fund its needs from property tax revenue. The state has then provided funding through a state aid to education formula that attempts to fund each school district in proportion to the district's needs that are unmet by property tax revenue. In 2007, LB 241 would have deemed teachers employed by K-12 school districts to be state employees for purposes of compensation. The amount of funding necessary to implement this policy decision is uncertain and how such

action would impact the budget of the State of Nebraska and the amount of further equalization funding that would be necessary are issues that need to be understood in order for the Legislature to seriously consider implementation of such a policy.

In Article VII, section 1, the Nebraska Constitution of Nebraska states "The Legislature shall provide for the free instruction in the common schools of this state of all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years." How the Legislature will fund this requirement of the state constitution is of utmost importance to the property taxpayers of this state. Financial support of education makes the heaviest demand on the amount of revenue raised through the property tax system. Finding a new method of appropriating the necessary funds for the support of the K-12 educational system is the most paramount issue to be resolved in order to provide meaningful property tax relief.

The Appropriations Committee shall conduct an interim study to analyze the fiscal impact of making K-12 public school teachers employees of the State of Nebraska. The study should cover the following issues:

1. What would be the fiscal impact on the state budget to finance the compensation packages of K-12 public school teachers?
2. What could be the impact on the current state aid to education formula?
3. Are there any constitutional hurdles that would impede the enactment of the necessary statutes to make the K-12 public school teachers state employees?

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 76. Introduced by Preister, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the rural economic development potential of wind energy development in Nebraska and legislation which may advance this goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 77. Introduced by Preister, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the issue of electronic waste recycling in Nebraska with the goal of adopting legislation to establish an electronic recycling waste program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 78. Introduced by Preister, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine issues related to the Open Meetings Act.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 79. Introduced by Preister, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine net-metering and draft legislation which creates a net-metering program in Nebraska that encourages the establishment of individual renewable energy generation and does not create a net-burdening or net-billing system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 80. Introduced by Preister, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the need for cost-benefit analyses to be conducted on services contracts entered into by the State of Nebraska.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 85. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: To direct the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature to study the availability of autism treatment programs in the state. The committee may determine if all families with children with autism in the state have access to effective local treatment. The committee may review what kinds of effective treatments are available. The committee may determine if the availability of effective treatment programs would be enhanced through the development or expansion of state or local programs and how such programs might be financially supported or administered.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 86. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: To study the method used in Nebraska to verify proof of automobile liability insurance and to examine ways to increase compliance with the automobile liability insurance laws. The committee may also review the automobile liability insurance laws of other states.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 89. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: To study how discarded televisions and their components could be recycled rather than discarded in landfills. With the advent of high definition televisions (HDTV), flat screen and flat panel display televisions, laser televisions, liquid crystal display (LCD) televisions, plasma display televisions, and any other types of television sets in production or soon to be developed or released, thousands of televisions that were developed and sold

prior to the advent of the new televisions will be discarded in the next few years. The Natural Resources Committee shall determine if the state or local governments could facilitate recycling of older televisions. The committee may also study how the newer television sets and their components could be recycled when they are discarded or become obsolete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 90. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: To direct the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature to study the requirements to license, register, purchase plates, verify proof of insurance, tax, and assess fees on motor vehicles. Under current law and rules it takes several days and several stops for a person who purchases a new or used motor vehicle, regardless of whether the purchaser has traded a vehicle in consideration of the purchase, to purchase, verify proof of insurance, license, register, purchase plates, and pay taxes and fees. Some states allow motor vehicle dealers to act as agents to allow one-stop shopping to purchase, verify proof of insurance, license, register, purchase plates, and pay taxes and fees on a motor vehicle.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 91. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: Though the Legislature has considered legislation to address the crime of identity theft, the purpose of this resolution is to determine if more can be done through legislation to effectively protect citizens from becoming victims of this crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 93. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: To examine implications for the future structure, development, and progress of agricultural production in Nebraska arising from the ruling of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in *Jones v. Gale*, No. 06-1308, holding Article XII, section 8, of the Constitution of Nebraska, to be invalid and enjoined. The study shall seek to identify policy instruments available to the Legislature and the people of Nebraska, including, as appropriate, but not necessarily limited to or requiring, modification of Article XII, section 8, of the Constitution of Nebraska, in order to foster and enhance legal, social, and economic conditions in Nebraska consistent with and which advance state interests and policy objectives relevant to the structure, development, and progress of agricultural production in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 94. Introduced by Kopplin, 3.

PURPOSE: To examine the issues relating to the rapid urbanization of the Papillion Creek Watershed. Current research and measurements of urban growth have found that:

- (1) On an annual basis, in the Papillion Watershed, three square miles of farm ground are converted to urban uses;
- (2) County and regional planning authorities have determined that the entire watershed will be built out by 2040; and
- (3) Engineering studies in the watershed have shown an increase of flood flow of twenty-five percent, jeopardizing over 750 homes and businesses in the watershed.

The issues to be addressed by this study shall include the review of the existing governmental collaborations in the watershed that seek to coordinate flood control, water quality, preservation of vulnerable ecosystems, development of wildlife habitats, and the costs of such efforts. Specifically, the study shall review the use of bonding and other financial mechanisms that would reduce the long-term cost and liability associated with the impact of urban growth on the taxpayers in the affected areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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 convene a meeting of the appropriate representatives from each city and county in the Papillion Creek Watershed to discuss current collaboration efforts and agreements and methods for

future coordination and collaboration and any potential legislation that may be necessary.

3. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 97. Introduced by Hudkins, 21.

PURPOSE: To direct the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature to review the North Carolina statewide guardian ad litem system. The committee should review the legislation enacting the North Carolina system, the costs associated with operating such a system, and interview judges, attorneys, administrators, and others who participate in the system to determine the positive and negative views of the system.

After collection of this information, the committee should review whether the implementation of such a guardian ad litem system in Nebraska would result in a better system in Nebraska, provide for greater accountability of the guardian ad litem, provide greater protection for children of abuse and neglect who are in the juvenile court system, and result in shorter out-of-home placements and shorter periods of time from removal to permanency.

Finally, the committee should review the costs of our current guardian ad litem system and provide the Legislature with a comparison of our current guardian ad litem system to a system comparable to the North Carolina guardian ad litem system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 98. Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: To evaluate how child support disregards/pass-throughs impact the economic self sufficiency of participants in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Examination of the history of child support disregards/pass-throughs in Nebraska;

(2) Examination of the effectiveness of child support disregards/pass-throughs in motivating sustained transition from public assistance to work in other states;

(3) Examination of the effectiveness of child support disregards/pass-throughs in increasing paternity identification in other states;

(4) Examination of the effectiveness of child support disregards/pass-throughs in motivating child support payment compliance in other states;

(5) Examination of the levels of child support disregards/pass-throughs in other states (particularly those similar in population and socioeconomic distribution to Nebraska); and

(6) Examination of the potential costs that would be incurred as a result of an increase in the percentage of child support disregards/pass-throughs.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 99. Introduced by Schimek, 27.

PURPOSE: To examine policies relating to the incarceration of persons with mental illness in Nebraska's state, county, and local correctional facilities, including juvenile facilities.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that, in 2000, sixteen percent of the national prison population had a mental illness. Human Rights Watch noted that nationally, in 2003, there were three times more individuals with mental illness in prisons than in mental health hospitals, and rates for mental illnesses within the prison population were two to four times more prevalent than in the general public. Jails and prisons, although not designed to offer a therapeutic mental health continuum of care, are quickly becoming our nation's front-line mental health providers.

The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) The effectiveness of current policies and treatment of offenders with mental illness from incarceration to release and potential improvements to such policies;

(2) Pertinent issues raised by LB 666, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007 and LB 669, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007, specifically the use of diversion programs for offenders with mental illness and discharge planning for offenders upon release from the correctional system, including the provision of public assistance benefits and supports for offenders with severe and persistent mental illness; and

(3) Issues and testimony stemming from Laws 2005, LR 191, Laws 2004, LB 1000, and Laws 2004, LR 346. The committee shall consult and solicit input from the Department of Correctional Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, the protection and advocacy system, mental health advocacy organizations, and other interested parties as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 100. Introduced by Langemeier, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether the insurance laws of this state should be amended in order to allow property and casualty insurance producers to charge fees for services they perform, subject to regulation by the Department of Insurance. The study should include a review of issues raised during consideration of LB 62 (Langemeier), which is currently pending in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek and consider the input of the Department of Insurance and interested persons, including insurance producers, as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 101. Introduced by Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee: Synowiecki, 7, Chairperson; Erdman, 47; Heidemann, 1; Karpisek, 32; Loudon, 49; White, 8.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to review the actuarial assumptions used to perform the annual actuarial valuation for the retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board. The actuarial assumptions reviewed by this study shall include, but not be limited to, investment return, inflation, salary increase, interest on employee contributions, increases on compensation and benefit limits, mortality, retirement, and disability.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 102. Introduced by Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee: Synowiecki, 7, Chairperson; Erdman, 47; Heidemann, 1; Karpisek, 32; Loudon, 49; White, 8.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the public employee retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board, including the State Employees Retirement System, the County Employees Retirement System, the School Employees' Retirement System,

the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement System, and the judges retirement system. The study may also examine the Class V School Employees Retirement System administered under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act.

The study will examine issues as they relate to the funding needs, benefits, contributions, and the administration of each retirement system.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 104. Introduced by Schimek, 27; Aguilar, 35.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine potential ways for the State of Nebraska to respectfully honor its citizens who have courageously served their country and given the ultimate sacrifice during combat.

The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) The examination of the current practices or systems that the State of Nebraska currently employs in managing records of those who served our country in the United States Armed Forces;

(2) The devising, if necessary, of an electronic system that would enable the State of Nebraska to collect and maintain a list of the names and service dates of all of the state's men and women who have courageously served their country and of those who have died during times of war; and

(3) The feasibility of the creation and implementation of a monument or memorial to be located within the State Capitol or its environs, dedicated to the memory of all the Nebraskans who died in combat.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 105. Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Loudon, 49, Chairperson; Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Dubas, 34; Fischer, 43; Hudkins, 21; Kopplin, 3; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine uranium mining in the State of Nebraska with respect to water consumption in, expansion in, and contracts with the State of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 106. Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Louden, 49, Chairperson; Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Dubas, 34; Fischer, 43; Hudkins, 21; Kopplin, 3; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of vegetation on river-flow in river basins in Nebraska, including, but not limited to, the Republican River Basin, the Platte River Basin, and the Niobrara River Basin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 107. Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Louden, 49, Chairperson; Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Dubas, 34; Fischer, 43; Hudkins, 21; Kopplin, 3; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of the elimination of state park entry permit fees on the state park system in Nebraska as well as a review of alternative methods of funding for the state park system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 108. Introduced by Louden, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine issues relating to the laws of Nebraska governing the generation of electric power using renewable energy. Some of the issues to be examined are;

(1) A review of various forms of renewable generation, including the costs of such generation and the potential for development of such generation in Nebraska;

(2) A review of the operation and cost of Nebraska's existing renewable and zero-emission generation resources and costs for new generation facilities;

(3) A review of how the current power generation portfolio mix is utilized to meet electric loads and how additional renewable energy would impact operations;

(4) A review of the adequacy of Nebraska's transmission system as it relates to the development of renewable and zero-emission generation and identification of what transmission investments may be necessary to support additional development;

(5) A comparison and evaluation of existing state and federal incentives to encourage greater development of renewable energy resources, including, but not limited to, tax incentives, grants, net billing, or net generation methodologies offered by other states to encourage renewable energy investment and to determine the applicability of such incentives in a public power state; and

(6) A review of the statutes, including those governing the Nebraska Power Review Board, to determine what, if any, statutory changes are necessary to further the recommendations for the development of a comprehensive renewable energy policy for the State of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 109. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study issues regarding the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool (CHIP) and consider whether amendments should be recommended to the CHIP Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 44-4201 to 44-4235. The study should include an examination of: The funding of the net loss of CHIP; the determination of annual premium rates; the extent of CHIP policy coverage; provider reimbursement methodology; eligibility for pool coverage; and cost containment strategies. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek the assistance of the Department of Insurance and should consider the input of interested persons as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 110. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether amendments should be recommended to the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 44-5223 to 44-5267. The study should include a review of issues raised during consideration of LB 378 (Pahls), which is currently pending in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. LB 378 proposes to amend the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act to provide that a small employer carrier would not be required to offer a health benefit plan that is specifically tailored for a bona fide association to any small employer who is not a member of the association. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek and consider the input of the Department of Insurance and interested persons as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 111. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study issues regarding the provisions of the Burial Pre-Need Sale Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 12-1101 to 12-1121, to determine whether the interests of pre-need purchasers are adequately safeguarded by the act. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the committee should seek and consider as it deems necessary and beneficial the input of interested persons and should request the assistance of the Department of Insurance in the compilation and analysis of pertinent data and information from relevant sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 112. Introduced by Pedersen, 39.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the Department of Correctional Services in order to determine what, if any, additional legislation or state financial assistance may be necessary to address issues of staffing and the treatment by the department of inmate substance abuse and mental health needs.

The Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall commence a study using staffing to be composed of representatives named by the Director of the Department of Correctional Services, staff from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and Public Counsel, and other legislative staff.

The study shall identify issues relating to the Department of Correctional Services' staffing, especially in connection with staffing remote facilities, and shall determine what needs to be done to improve the recruitment and retention of department employees.

The study shall also examine the structure of the Department of Correctional Services' programs that address mental health and substance abuse issues among inmates and shall identify steps that can be taken legislatively to support those programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 113. Introduced by Schimek, 27.

PURPOSE: To examine the issues relating to urban storm water runoff, especially the compliance of political subdivisions with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System under the federal Clean Water Act.

The following Nebraska political subdivisions are required by the Department of Environmental Quality to comply with the federal Clean Water Act and are mandated to expend money to develop and implement storm water programs and projects: Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Boys Town, La Vista, Papillion, Ralston, South Sioux City, Dakota City, Scottsbluff, North Platte, Lexington, Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings, Columbus, Norfolk, Fremont, Beatrice, Douglas County, Sarpy County, Lancaster County, and Dakota County.

The cost to Nebraska's political subdivisions to comply with the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, as it relates to storm water management, currently exceeds \$24 million annually and does not include the cost of other storm water issues which drive these costs even higher.

This study will address the following issues:

- (1) The need for state-enabling authority for political subdivisions subject to storm water requirements under the federal Clean Water Act; and

(2) The need to establish local storm water utilities as an optional funding source to pay for the cost of development, establishment, and implementation of storm water management programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 114. Introduced by Janssen, 15.

PURPOSE: This study is to examine the burden of proof and standard of review of valuation cases appealed to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. As established by case law and codified in the statute, decisions of the county board of equalization are granted great deference. Such decisions are entitled to a presumption of correctness and are not reversed by the commission unless the valuation is "arbitrary or unreasonable". Case law has established that this means without basis.

In recent years, bills have been introduced seeking to soften this standard of review, the thought being that a lower standard of review would allow more plaintiffs to prevail. Another argument in support of this change is that county boards of equalization do not have the expertise or resources to become a first trier of fact. Issues arise however, because more appeals would mean more expense for the commission and less local control through the county board of equalization.

This study should examine the entire process of placing a value on real property from the time the county assessor places a value on a parcel, through the protest process before the county board of equalization, through appeals to the commission, and finally, appeal of the commission's decision to the Court of Appeals. The study is to answer the following questions:

What should the process before the county board look like?

What should be established to change the recommendation of the county assessor?

Should there be a record maintained for the proceedings before the county board of equalization or should the proceeding before the Tax Equalization and Review Commission be the first formal trial-like proceeding?

If the county board proceeding is to become more formal, what in the way of procedure, training, qualifications, and transcription must be provided to the counties to make this process meaningful?

What would it cost?

If the commission is to be the trial-level proceeding, what additional training, qualifications, and resources must be provided to the commission?

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 115. Introduced by Janssen, 15.

PURPOSE: This study is to examine an income-based method of placing a value on agricultural and horticultural land. The study should include the assistance and recommendations of the Property Tax Administrator and the Greenbelt Advisory Committee and shall develop the best possible methodology for determining the value of agricultural and horticultural land based on its income-producing capabilities. The study shall give consideration to:

- (1) The constitutional requirement that the methodology produce values that are uniform and proportionate within the entire class of agricultural and horticultural land;
- (2) The use of technology, including, but not limited to, global positioning system mapping to the extent feasible in the methodology;
- (3) The preservation of a viable appeals process for taxpayers;
- (4) The information and data necessary to implement an income-based methodology and whether or not such information is readily available;
- (5) The roles and functions of county assessors and the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation and the Department of Revenue in implementing an income-based methodology; and
- (6) The administrative cost of an income-based methodology in comparison to current practice.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 116. Introduced by Janssen, 15.

PURPOSE: An interim study shall be performed by the staff of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature to examine residential, business, and agricultural tax burdens in Nebraska. Measurements of relative levels of taxation and history of tax increases shall be developed. Changes in the fiscal conditions of municipal, county, and school governments shall be examined as part of the study. A report shall be presented to the Revenue Committee by October 1, and a final report presented prior to the 2008 legislative session.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 117. Introduced by Mines, 18.

PURPOSE: To analyze the municipal county process as it exists under the law and research ways in which the process can be changed in order to make it more effective.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Examination of the financial impact of reorganization that accompanies the creation of a municipal county;
- (2) Examination of potential efficiencies that could be achieved in the creation of a municipal county and the subsequent elimination of governmental overlap;
- (3) Examination of the manner in which votes would be counted under the municipal county process;
- (4) Examination of the manner in which utility districts would be determined under a new municipal county process; and
- (5) Examination of the municipal county process in other states.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 119. Introduced by Johnson, 37; Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to review the availability of cost estimates in health care pricing and determine the need to carry out legislation to provide good faith estimates of costs by health care providers and insurers to a consumer upon request. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the Banking, Commerce and Insurance and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature should consider input from the Departments of Insurance and Health and Human Services and other interested parties, including insurers and health care providers, as the committees deem necessary and beneficial.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of their study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 120. Introduced by Wightman, 36.

WHEREAS, inflation in the cost of employer-provided health care in Nebraska has been growing at a double digit annual rate, a much higher rate than the Consumer Price Index and other recognized barometers of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the funding of the state's health insurance plan for the past three years has resulted in a budget deficit of at least \$12 million and consumes an ever-larger share of the budget; and

WHEREAS, growth in the state's health insurance cost is driven by both plans for state employees and employees of schools and political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, any consideration of health care management initiatives must necessarily consider benefit plan design, short and long-term planning, wellness standards and incentives, disease management, retirement pre-planning, current statutory funding, access and choice for small public employers, comparability and competition both instate and out-of-state, flexibility in plans and options, and quantifying health care spending at all levels of government.

THEREFORE, it is determined that the Appropriations Committee and the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall jointly authorize an interim study committee for the following purposes:

To study the cost of public employee health plans at all levels of government within the State of Nebraska, giving particular attention to containment of the cost of health care plans, improvement of health care for public employees, and consideration of possible legislation to accomplish these goals.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee and the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of their study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 121. Introduced by Pedersen, 39.

PURPOSE: To examine the feasibility of the adoption of juvenile certification legislation to provide that the juvenile court shall have original jurisdiction as to any juveniles who have committed crimes outlined in Nebraska statutes.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, determining:

(1) Whether all crimes should go to the juvenile court or if there are certain types of crimes that should remain in county or district court;

(2) Whether there are types of crimes that would automatically be sent to adult court and the procedures that would need to be followed in order to do that; and

(3) The types of evidence that would need to be presented in order to transfer a case to adult court or to keep a case in juvenile court.

In making the above determinations, the issues to be considered include: The type of treatment the juvenile would most likely be amenable to; whether there is evidence that the alleged offense included violence or was committed in an aggressive or pre-meditated manner; motivation for the commission of the offense; age of the juvenile and age and circumstances of others involved in the crime; previous history of the juvenile, including whether the previous offenses were adjudicated in juvenile court; whether the crimes were against persons or relating to property; any previous history of antisocial behavior, including any patterns of physical violence; the sophistication and maturity of the juvenile; whether he or she has had previous contact with law enforcement agencies and the nature of the contact; whether there are facilities available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile; and whether the best interests of the juvenile and the security of the public may require that the juvenile continue in custody or under supervision for a period of time extending beyond his or her minority and, if so, any available alternatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 122. Introduced by Aguilar, 35.

PURPOSE: To examine matters and issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 124. Introduced by Fischer, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the issues and matters within the scope of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 126. Introduced by Adams, 24.

PURPOSE: To examine high ability learner programs and the effectiveness of the current program format and funding level. Three years ago, funding was reduced drastically and many students and teachers suffered. Programs and services were cut as well as professional training opportunities for teachers. Nebraska is currently funding high ability learner programs at a level much below its surrounding states.

Students in all parts of Nebraska should have equal access to enrichment and acceleration but many do not. Many of the districts in remote areas have students that need acceleration and could benefit from opportunities presented by distance learning or online learning. Because of funding cuts, these opportunities may not be available. Consequently, these high ability learners are not progressing adequately and are left behind. When these students leave the K-12 environment for further learning opportunities, they are in the position of catching up, which costs them tuition and time.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Examination of the criteria used by the State Department of Education to determine an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program;
- (2) Examination of best practices recommended by the National Association for Gifted Children;
- (3) Examination of the current funding format, including recommendations for an appropriate funding level;
- (4) Examination of professional training opportunities for teachers, including graduate level courses and workshops available in the state; and
- (5) Examination of school districts in the state that are providing an excellent level of services or programs for high ability learners.

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

1. That the Education 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 127. Introduced by Synowiecki, 7.

PURPOSE: To review the state funds under the responsibility of the state investment officer in order to determine whether these funds are being invested in accordance with law and whether the statutory provisions governing the investment of these funds should be updated in order to reflect modern investment principles. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee shall consider input from the Nebraska Investment Council, the State Treasurer, and other interested parties as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 128. Introduced by Aguilar, 35.

PURPOSE: (1) Under current Nebraska law, even though there is no definition of mother, it has been determined that a woman delivering a child is the mother of that child. The presumption would follow then that the delivering woman's husband is the father of the child. The paternity issue can be resolved administratively by completing the process set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. section 71-640.01. However, there is no administrative process to allow for maternity to be established by someone other than the woman delivering the child, such as the case in which a surrogate mother is the woman delivering the child. Currently, the Office of Vital Records of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System requires these individuals to obtain a court order to enter a person, other than the gestational surrogate, as the mother on such birth certificates. Nebraska law currently provides no specific authority for the Office of Vital Records to enter the name of someone other than the mother, the woman delivering the baby, on the birth certificate absent an adoption proceeding.

(2) In addition, a biological parent or parents should not have to go through an adoption proceeding to adopt his or her own biological child. There is no specific court filing to bring this type of action and any resulting order is under the equitable power of the court. As a result, inconsistent findings across the state could occur. A court in one jurisdiction may believe that it has equitable power to enter the order while another may not.

(3) The purpose of this study is to examine administrative processes and laws which would permit the establishment of a parent and child relationship in the event of a gestational surrogacy. Specifically, this study shall include, but not be limited to, the following relating to gestational surrogacy:

- (1) Examination of all relevant laws, rules, and regulations of other states;
- (2) Examination of all current administrative processes, policies, and rules and regulations in the Office of Vital Records of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System;
- (3) Examination of all relevant Nebraska court cases;
- (4) Examination of all relevant administrative processes, policies, and rules and regulations used in other states; and
- (5) Examination of all relevant court cases from other states.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 129. Introduced by Avery, 28.

PURPOSE: The Base Realignment and Closure process periodically recommends and effectuates closure and realignment of United States Department of Defense installations. Nebraska is the home to a number of such installations. The Legislature should study the Base Realignment and Closure process to gain an understanding of the process and assess any response required by the state to the process.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 130. Introduced by Synowiecki, 7; Aguilar, 35; Engel, 17; Harms, 48; Johnson, 37; Kruse, 13; Lathrop, 12; Mines, 18; Nantkes, 46; Nelson, 6; Stuthman, 22; White, 8; Wightman, 36.

PURPOSE: The purposes of this interim study include examining the resources and other requirements necessary to implement an effective statewide comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program, examining the state appropriations necessary to effectively impact tobacco use, and assessing past and current state tobacco appropriations and revenue streams.

The issues addressed by this interim study include, but are not limited to:

(1) Review of current activities and effectiveness of Nebraska's Tobacco Control Program, Program 30, of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) Issues related to the distribution of Master Settlement Agreement funds in Nebraska for tobacco control programs and recommended levels of funding by the Centers for Disease Control.

(3) How such funding could be expanded and the effectiveness of potential expansions, including reduction of the number of adults and youth using tobacco products and related reduction in public health care expenditures.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 132. Introduced by Kruse, 13.

PURPOSE: To study the funding and distribution of transit aid related to the local operating subsidy of transit vehicles as directed by sections 13-1202 and 13-1209.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 133. Introduced by Agriculture Committee: Erdman, 47, Chairperson; Chambers, 11; Dierks, 40; Dubas, 34; Karpisek, 32; McDonald, 41; Preister, 5; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to provide an opportunity for the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature to investigate and review matters arising during the interim that relate to issues within the jurisdiction of the committee and which may be the subject of legislation prepared for introduction in the 2008 legislative session. This interim study is intended to provide a forum to facilitate the committee's review and consideration as may be appropriate of potential policy response to changes in federal law, judicial decisions, and other developments that may occur during the interim.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 134. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine agricultural development as an element of economic development. The study shall specifically review means of enhancing the agricultural development functions of the Department of Agriculture, including, but not limited to,

enhancing coordination with rural development programs administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 135. Introduced by Erdman, 47; Harms, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to catalog programs of agricultural research and public sources of funding for agricultural research and to examine critical research priorities in order to resolve societal, resource, and other constraints to the optimization of economic opportunities for production agriculture in this state. The study shall further examine existing means of identifying prioritization of public agricultural research investment in this state and to identify potential funding sources to match unmet agricultural research needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 136. Introduced by Erdman, 47; Dierks, 40.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine means of stimulating expansion of the biodiesel fuel industry in Nebraska. The study shall specifically examine the potential for utilization of production incentives for that purpose as proposed in LB 626, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session. The study shall also examine means by which the State of Nebraska may encourage and facilitate technology transfer and commercialization of innovative biodiesel conversion technologies and systems that increase the conversion efficiency and net energy balance of biodiesel production and enable the utilization of feedstocks that offer renewable energy solutions with minimal impact to food security.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 137. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the feasibility and desirability of redesigning the livestock friendly county program to serve as a delivery vehicle for providing assistance for county identified livestock development goals and to implement other recommendations contained within the LR 320 staff report to the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 138. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine means of fully cash funding the duties of the Department of Agriculture under the Noxious Weed Control Act. It shall also be a purpose of this study to examine the utilization and accomplishments of the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance Fund, to examine the need for continuation of the grant program under the act, and to identify sources of funding to carry out the purposes of the program. This study shall not include an examination of the purposes and the utilizations of such fund authorized and funded through Laws 2007, LB 701.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 139. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine and identify constraints to expanded deployment of systems for the recovery of energy and other useful byproducts from animal wastes associated with confined livestock operations. The study shall seek to identify means by which the State of Nebraska may encourage and enable greater utilization of such systems by Nebraska livestock producers, including, but not limited to, enhancing coordination of state programs with and enhancing Nebraska producers' competitiveness in accessing United States Department of Agriculture programs and other available federal assistance programs for such purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 140. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine activities and staffing of the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry funded wholly or in part through federal grant funds under homeland security, livestock disease emergency response, animal identification, or other initiatives of the federal government. It is a goal of this study to identify the need for and feasibility of continuing such activities and staffing if federal funding sources are not continued.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 141. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine means of minimizing interstate commercial distortions and burdens to Nebraska agricultural equipment dealers from the inability to serve consumer demand for certain tractor models not permitted for sale in Nebraska. The study shall specifically seek to:

(1) Quantify and qualify the number and value of current tractor models not permitted for sale in Nebraska purchased by Nebraska tractor consumers from out-of-state equipment dealerships;

(2) Quantify and qualify the Nebraska tractor market in terms of agricultural and nonagricultural applications, power ranges, and trends in tractor sales;

(3) Identify any disincentives to tractor manufacturers meeting the Nebraska tractor permit requirements and identify means by which such barriers may be reduced or incentives enhanced to encourage manufacturers to submit to the Nebraska permitting requirements; and

(4) Monitor and report on the progress of any efforts to apply a system of third-party performance verification testing identical to or substantially similar to Nebraska's tractor permitting requirements as a condition to marketing tractor models in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 142. Introduced by Friend, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to undertake a review and investigation of the Nebraska Industrial Development Corporation Act and the issues raised by LB 51, introduced in the 2007 legislative session. Most particularly, the study would examine the experience of Omaha and those counties that have exercised the authority granted by the act in its current form, the implications of extending such authority to other cities and villages, and a determination of whether further changes to the extent or nature of the authority granted by the act are warranted or desirable.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 143. Introduced by Friend, 10; Rogert, 16.

PURPOSE: This study shall review issues raised by LR2CA, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007, (the proposed constitutional amendment to broaden and refine authority for cities and counties to use tax-increment financing). The study shall address issues raised with regard to the provisions of LR2CA during the resolution's public hearing before the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature and at the time of its initial consideration by the full Legislature. Based upon the study, the committee shall propose and recommend changes to the current language of the resolution to better address municipal and citizen concerns.

The study shall include a review of current municipal practices regarding tax-increment financing, the extent to which it is being used, the purposes to which it is devoted, and the impact on general government finances in areas where the authority is exercised.

One goal of the study is to review tax-increment financing statutes in other states and, using their experience and the data developed during the course of the study, to draft legislation that would serve as model enabling legislation under the proposed constitutional amendment should it be adopted by the voters in 2008.

As an alternative, the study shall review and develop possible changes to the current Community Development Law required or justified by the study (should the Legislature or the voters fail to adopt LR2CA or a related proposal).

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 144. Introduced by McDonald, 41; Flood, 19.

PURPOSE: To examine issues relating to dangerous dogs in Nebraska. Dangerous dogs have become a serious and widespread threat to the safety and welfare of Nebraskans. Regulation and control of dangerous dogs is a statewide problem which may require legislative intervention to address the significant public health and safety threat posed by dangerous dogs.

The Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall conduct a review of the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 54-601 to 54-624 to determine whether Nebraska laws provide the public with reasonable and adequate protection from dangerous dogs. Issues to be examined include, but are not limited to:

(1) A review of the definitions in sections 54-601 to 54-624 to determine accuracy and clarity;

(2) A review of enforcement mechanisms for such statutes to determine the responsibility for and effectiveness of enforcement;

(3) A review of criminal penalties for owners of dangerous dogs;

(4) A review of civil liability requirements for injuries, emotional distress, and property loss caused by dangerous dogs;

(5) A review of the feasibility of liability insurance requirements for owners of dangerous dogs;

(6) A review of the feasibility of permit and inspection requirements for owners of dangerous dogs; and

(7) A review of state statutes to determine what, if any, statutory changes are necessary to regulate and control dangerous dogs and preserve public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 145. Introduced by McDonald, 41.

PURPOSE: To examine the Income Withholding for Child Support Act as contained in Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 43-1701 to 43-1743. Issues to be examined include, but are not limited to, the history of the garnishment process in Nebraska, allowable fees, Internet access and its effect on the child support payment process, and whether statutory changes to update the act are necessary to utilize modern technology.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 146. Introduced by Aguilar, 35.

PURPOSE: To examine the issue of creating a voluntary registry for interior designers. The purpose of the registry is to provide consumers with information on the responsibilities and services of design professionals. The issues addressed by this interim study will include, but not be limited to, determining which state agency is most appropriate to house and administer the registry.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 147. Introduced by McDonald, 41.

PURPOSE: To study Nebraska liquor law pertaining to transportation of liquor into the state. Neb. Rev. Stat. section 53-194.03 makes it unlawful to transport more than nine liters of alcoholic liquor per month into the state.

This study will consider the limitations of this statute and whether exceptions are needed.

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

1. That the General Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 148. Introduced by McDonald, 41.

PURPOSE: To study Nebraska's cemetery statutes and identify unclear and obsolete statutory language in need of clarification or removal.

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

1. That the General Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 149. Introduced by McDonald, 41.

PURPOSE: To study recent federal lawsuits dealing with the right of states, under the 21st Amendment to the United States Constitution, to regulate alcohol.

A United States District Court in the State of Washington held in *Costco Wholesale Corp. v. Hoen*, Slip Copy, 2006 WL 2645183, W.D.Wash. (September 14, 2006), that the State of Washington's alcohol control laws were suspect under federal anti-trust laws and not shielded by the 21st Amendment.

This case followed *Granholm v. Heald*, 544 U.S. 460, 125 S.Ct. 1885 (2005), in which the United States Supreme Court held that states which allow in-state wineries to ship their product directly to consumers may not bar out-of-state wineries from doing the same.

This study will include evaluation of these and other legal developments and their effect on Nebraska liquor law.

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

1. That the General Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 150. Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: Friend, 10, Chairperson; Janssen, 15; Lathrop, 12; McGill, 26; Rogert, 16; White, 8.

PURPOSE: In the course of its consideration of LB 607 (which proposed to provide a requirement for full-time, paid fire personnel in certain cities of the first class), the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature learned of the wide variety of arrangements available by statute to first class cities for providing fire protection and emergency response services, including combinations of career and volunteer staffing for those functions.

This study would review the manner in which Nebraska's first class cities provide fire protection and emergency response services. It would focus not only on staffing but also on finance and cost strategies and the mechanisms employed for managing, developing, and administering capital and human assets devoted to such services. The study would attempt to determine the effectiveness of the various mechanisms for providing the services, their efficiency, and public satisfaction with the services provided. To the

maximum extent feasible, the committee's study will use existing studies or industry standards to support its conclusions.

The study will seek to engage the opinions and assistance of municipal government representatives and active members of fire department and emergency response agencies in those municipalities.

At its conclusion, the committee will undertake to propose legislation to reform or enhance current statutory authority for fire protection and emergency response services and recommend changes to current law based upon the data developed in the course of the study.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 151. Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: Friend, 10, Chairperson; Janssen, 15; Lathrop, 12; McGill, 26; Rogert, 16; White, 8.

PURPOSE: This study would investigate (1) the statutory authority for representation on and the size of city governing bodies in metropolitan class, primary class, and first class cities (including charter provisions) and (2) the actual size of the governing bodies in such cities and historical changes relating to the size of governing bodies in such cities.

In addition, the study would seek to determine the optimal size of governing bodies for such cities based upon experience and expressed public wishes and the political and demographic implications in increasing or reducing the size of governing bodies.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 152. Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee Friend, 10, Chairperson; Janssen, 15; Lathrop, 12; McGill, 26; Rogert, 16; White, 8.

PURPOSE: This study shall provide the opportunity for the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature to investigate and review matters and issues arising during the interim which are within its jurisdiction and which may be the subject of bills to be introduced in the 2008 legislative session. This study shall provide the opportunity for a careful review of proposed legislation and the drafting of such legislation before time constraints and the pace of legislative activity makes studied review more problematic. This

process has, in the past, served to facilitate review of bills during the regular session and has helped the committee avoid the need for committee amendments which slow down the consideration of bills by the Legislature.

The study shall involve:

(1) A review of any legislation considered by the Urban Affairs Committee during the 2007 legislative session which was either killed by the committee, failed to advance to final reading, or was held in committee to determine what further action might be warranted with regard to the particular subjects of the individual bills, including, but not limited to, handicapped parking, municipal consolidation, the formation of new villages, expanded planning and zoning authority for cities of the first and second class, sanitary and improvement districts, municipal annexation, and outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices;

(2) A review of problems, concerns, or legislation proposed for introduction by senators or other parties for study, technical discussion, or conceptual refinement before the start of the next legislative session; and

(3) The holding of at least one public hearing to provide an opportunity for public comment and discussion with members of the committee and the public on issues within the committee's jurisdiction.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 153. Introduced by Stuthman, 22.

PURPOSE: Discipline of a medical professional should follow procedural due process protections and can lead to the taking of property rights. This study is intended to examine the procedures used by the State Board of Health within the Department of Health and Human Services when disciplining medical professionals or allowing medical professionals to practice in the State of Nebraska. This study is also intended to examine the membership of the State Board of Health. The study shall include these issues:

(1) The need to obtain information regarding applicants wanting to practice medicine in the State of Nebraska;

(2) The need for patients to be able to obtain information relative to a medical professional's history with regard to his or her practice of medicine and other conduct;

(3) Whether the membership of the State Board of Health should be limited to those who do not have a past record of disciplinary action against them;

(4) The need for representation of a victim's advocate on the State Board of Health; and

(5) The need for medical professionals to be held accountable for acts of negligence or other offenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 155. Introduced by Johnson, 37; Aguilar, 35.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine and provide recommendations relating to all of the factors necessary to provide the workforce necessary to provide quality in-home services. The Nebraska Long Term Care Plan of 1997 and the Medicaid Reform Plan of 2005 both recognize home- and community-based services as a needed service and an alternative to residential nursing home care. LB 321 (2007) that appropriates funds for state government expenses includes funds for HHS to expand the capacity for in-home services for the aged and disabled and provides funding to develop a rate-setting methodology for all long-term services. This session, the Health and Human Services Committee considered legislative bills that raised critical issues concerning: (a) The workforce necessary to provide in-home services and workers, (b) the ability to screen in-home workers who care for persons in their home, (c) the training needed by in-home workers, (d) the ability of in-home workers to access training programs, (e) the need to coordinate care and match services to persons who need in-home services, and (f) methods to monitor the quality of services provided. Further, legislative action is necessary and appropriate to address the issues that have been recognized for over a decade in the provision of services and the efficiency of money spent for in-home and community based services.

The Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, in cooperation with stakeholders, should study the in-home services industry, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) The number of providers needed to meet current and future service needs;
- (2) A system to implement basic provider training programs and provider and consumer communication programs;
- (3) Implementation of a statewide system or registry to be used to coordinate in-home services and consumer needs at the direction of the consumer or a consumer's care coordinator;
- (4) The rate or wage increase necessary for recruitment, retention, and stabilization of the workforce; and
- (5) Implementation of a system of accountability for appropriate levels of quality service provision.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 156. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: (1) To examine and provide recommendations relating to the waiting list for people with developmental disabilities and to provide recommendations on any proposed changes to the methodology used for the payment of service providers. The waiting list refers to people who have been determined to be eligible for services, have set a date of need, but have not received services because of a lack of funding available. The waiting list has continued to be only partially addressed and communication, coordination, and collaboration are needed to develop an updated strategic plan based on incremental implementation if the intent of Nebraska law is to be met.

(2) Subsection (3) of section 83-1216 provides: "It is the intent of the Legislature that by July 1, 2010, all persons determined to be eligible for services shall receive services in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Services Act." In 2004, LB 297 amended section 83-1216 to include the establishment of a workgroup to provide a report to the Legislature and the Governor for the development of an objective assessment process to determine the amount of funding for the provision of services. The report generated by this workgroup was supported by unanimous consent of the workgroup. Further work is needed to develop a plan and additional study is necessary. Such study and recommendations for a plan shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:

(a) A plan for the provision of services to all persons determined to be eligible for services in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Services Act by 2010; and

(b) The incremental statewide implementation process for the provision of specialized services based upon:

(i) The number of persons who are waiting for services; and

(ii) The need to prevent any future development of lengthy waiting lists for services.

(3) The plan shall be based upon data provided by the Department of Health and Human Services and the State Department of Education to include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) The historical usage of priority one funding for people with developmental disabilities;

(b) Attrition in specialized services;

(c) The projected and actuarial budgeted funding for students who are exiting high school; and

(d) Other information as needed.

(4) In addition, the Medicaid Reform Council has identified the need to review and revise the methodology used for determining the rates paid to developmental disability providers.

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

To implement the purpose of this resolution, the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a working group including representatives from the State Department of Education, the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, people with developmental disabilities and their families, a statewide developmental disability advocacy organization, developmental disabilities service providers, and other interested parties. The working group shall:

(1) Submit recommendations for a strategic plan to incrementally reduce the number of persons on the waiting list for developmental disabilities to meet the intent of the Legislature;

(2) Consult with the Department of Health and Human Services to review and make recommendations on any revision to the rate methodology; and

(3) Submit the workgroup's recommendations on the strategic plan and revisions to the rate methodology in a report to the Medicaid Reform Council, the Legislature, and the Governor.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 157. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: The Legislature finds that:

(1) Governor Dave Heineman, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Hendry, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Mike Heavican are providing leadership to foster collaboration with the goal of improving Nebraska's child welfare system;

(2) Due to the dedication and hard work of judges, prosecutors, guardians ad litem, defense lawyers, caseworkers, supervisors, and administration, the following improvements in the care of children documented by the review conducted by the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board shall be recognized:

(a) Fewer children are in out-of-home care (5,186 children were in out-of-home care on December 31, 2006, compared to 6,204 on December 31, 2005);

(b) More children's cases have written plans designated to correct problems that led to removal of children from their homes (73.7% of the cases reviewed in 2006 had written plans, compared to 58.3% in 2001);

(c) More case managers from the Department of Health and Human Services are regularly seeing the children (88.9% of the children reviewed in the last half of 2006 had been seen by the worker in the 60 days prior to review, compared to 68.5% in 2001, and 39% in 1999); and

(d) In the last five years, there has been a decrease in the number of children who, after family reunification, return to the foster care system (41.3% of the children in care on December 31, 2001, had prior removals compared to 37.8% of those in care on December 31, 2006);

(3) The following statistics clearly demonstrate that the child welfare system has need for additional improvements:

(a) 5,186 children were in out-of-home foster care in Nebraska on December 31, 2006 (5,052 wards of the Department of Health and Human Services, plus children under the courts, or in an out-of-home placement through a child-placement agency);

(b) 1,961 of the 5,186 children (37.8%) have had at least one prior removal from the home. This is an increase in percentage from December 31, 2005, when 33.5% of the children in care had experienced multiple removals;

(c) 1,881 (36.3%) of the 5,186 children have been moved to six or more different foster placements throughout their lifetime;

(d) 947 (18.3%) of the 5,186 children have been moved to 10 or more different foster placements throughout their lifetime;

(e) 2,484 (49.2%) of the 5,052 wards of the Department of Health and Human Services in care on December 31, 2006, have had four or more caseworker changes;

(f) 1,438 (38.5%) of the 3,728 children reviewed in 2006 had been in foster care for two years or more at the time of their last review and 384 (10.3%) of the 3,728 reviewed children had been in foster care for five years or more;

(g) 195 (5.2%) of the 3,728 reviewed children were in placements that were unsafe (78 children) or inappropriate (117 children). Another 608 (16.3%) of the 3,728 reviewed children were in placements where the appropriateness of the current placement could not be determined due to a lack of documentation;

(h) The foster parents of 211 children reviewed in the last half of 2006 were not provided medical information about the child upon placement in their home;

(i) 425 (10.6%) of the 4,009 wards of the Department of Health and Human Services (excluding youth of the Office of Juvenile Services) that left out-of-home care during 2006 were adopted. Nationally, an average of 20% of social service wards are adopted annually;

(j) There were 1,333 children age birth through five in out-of-home care on December 31, 2006;

(k) 108 (11.4%) of 948 children between the ages of birth through five years in a special study conducted at the end of 2006 were in foster homes that were caring for the child reviewed plus five or more other children. 17 of the 108 children had recognized disabilities;

(l) In a special study conducted at the end of 2006, a Department of Health and Human Services contractor supervised parental visitation for 507 of the 948 children age birth through five. 174 (34.3%) of the 507 children had four or more different persons monitoring their visitation sessions;

(m) In a special study conducted at the end of 2006, a Department of Health and Human Services contractor transported 360 of the 948 children between the ages of birth through five years. Most of this transportation was to parental visitation sessions. 85 (23.6%) of the 360 children had four or more different drivers; and

(n) 142 (54.6%) of the 260 children between the ages of birth through two years reviewed during the last half of 2006 were placed in foster care due to parental substance abuse;

(4) Increases in parental substance abuse has added a new element of complexity to case demands. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant that victimized the addicted parents and the children within their care. 352 (37.1%) of the 948 children age birth through five in a special study conducted at the end of 2006 entered care due to parental methamphetamine abuse; and

(5) Regardless of the root cause for children coming into foster care, abused and neglected children create additional costs for Nebraska's taxpayers because these children are often in special education, have an increased likelihood of current and future drug and alcohol abuse, are more likely to be homeless, are more likely to enter the prison population, and when they have children of their own may perpetuate the cycle of abuse as adults.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution and work in cooperation with the Legislative Performance Audit Committee's auditor of the foster care system.

2. That the study shall include:

a. An examination of the intake system, including what services could prevent removals from the home of origin;

b. Reasons for the number of children in out-of-home care;

c. Children's number of placement changes and injuries in care;

d. The number of foster homes and group placements available in each region of the state;

e. The number of children cared for in foster homes and group placements;

f. Caseworker changes and caseloads;

g. Service provision to children, including medical, dental, and mental health services;

h. The length of time children spend in foster care and barriers to permanency;

i. A review of the care of children between the ages of birth through five years, including the number of placement changes, the effects of contracting for visitation supervision and transportation, the length of time in care, the number of other children in the foster homes, and the recruitment of foster parents; and

j. The effectiveness of the current contract system.

3. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall work in cooperation with the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature to address legal barriers to adoption and adherence to twelve-month court reviews as permanency markers.

4. That the committee shall, upon the conclusion of this study, make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 158. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To examine and provide recommendations relating to the development and utilization of voluntary emergency medical personnel to

assist in responding to natural disasters or in the event of a flu pandemic. The Trust for America's Health reported that Nebraska's ecology would sustain the fifth-highest loss to its economy among the fifty states should a flu pandemic hit the United States.

Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services has been recognized as a leader in preparation for such an event but concerns still exist about development and utilization of voluntary emergency medical personnel to assist in responding to such events. Such study recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:

- (1) Training and competency of volunteer physicians and other medical personnel;
- (2) Liability of the voluntary medical personnel including, but not limited to, an assessment of the need to adopt the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws;
- (3) Planning for a sufficient number of emergency personnel to adequately respond to major public emergencies; and
- (4) Coordinating and integrating volunteer medical reserve corps with other related federal and state programs.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 159. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: To examine the public policies under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act and to evaluate whether current requirements regarding covered employees result in any adverse effects or unintended consequences to employers, including, but not limited to:

- (1) The requirement that employers continue to maintain a workers' compensation policy even though personnel changes would otherwise exempt them from the act; and
- (2) The application of workers' compensation policies to agricultural operations in Nebraska as a result of the use of the term "full-time employees" in subdivision (2)(d) of section 48-106.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 160. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: To examine the results of the law enforcement retirement survey conducted utilizing the data reported to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature pursuant to the Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Survey Act in LB 328, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of the reported survey data and any actuarial data reported and result in a recommendation to the Legislature on the development of a plan to address the lack of retirement plans for peace officers employed by cities of the second class and villages. These plans could include, but not be limited to, the creation of a new defined benefit plan, the creation of a new cash balance plan, the creation of a new defined contribution plan, or the possible inclusion of peace officers employed by cities of the second class and villages in the County Employees Retirement Act currently administered by the state.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 161. Introduced by Erdman, 47.

PURPOSE: To examine the manner in which agencies of Nebraska state government are providing public notice of their intention to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule or regulation under the Administrative Procedure Act. The state has an obligation to formulate policy and conduct business at all times in an open and transparent manner that assures an informed public. Recently, state agencies have begun to take advantage of technology and electronic communications to augment or replace printed notices of proposed rule or regulation changes. Given the complexity of accessing electronic information, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall undertake an overall examination of the manner of notification to ensure adequate public access and public notice to interested parties.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, reviewing whether current methods of notice are adequate to reach, as far as practicable, all interested parties and whether the current electronic information formats are sufficiently user friendly to facilitate public access to both existing and proposed agency rules and regulations.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee request from the several agencies of state government information on the manner in which they are undertaking the public notice requirement under the Administrative Procedure Act.

3. 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 162. Introduced by Synowiecki, 7.

PURPOSE: To examine the overall impact of the area agency on aging programs on the health of the citizens of Nebraska. Nebraska has eight area agencies on aging across the state that are funded by the Legislature and funded by Title XX of the federal Social Security Act.

This study shall determine the importance of area agency on aging programs in maintaining easily accessible health services in both the rural and urban areas of Nebraska, the level of funding necessary to bring programs online or to continue current programs, and partnerships with other agencies.

In addition, the study should determine whether the funding provided by the Legislature, as well as federal funding, is adequate.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 163. Introduced by McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: To examine ways to increase the pool of potential foster parents, particularly parents who have demonstrated their willingness and ability to foster children.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 164. Introduced by McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: To examine transitional benefits under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs and their effectiveness in successfully moving families to permanent self-sufficiency.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, the examination of:

- (1) Standards of eligibility for transitional benefits and their effectiveness in successfully transitioning families from TANF;
- (2) Consistencies or inconsistencies in rules, eligibility standards, and sliding fee scales among programs providing transitional benefits;
- (3) Rules, standards of eligibility, and sliding fee scales in other states;
- (4) State rules governing such benefits and the potential need to revise such rules within the power of the state;
- (5) Benefits intended to keep families from returning to or seeking public assistance;
- (6) Data gathered and available which reflects the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of benefits intended to successfully move families to permanent self-sufficiency; and
- (7) The cost-effectiveness of moving families to permanent self-sufficiency.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 165. Introduced by McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: To examine the service needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and identify cost-effective system enhancements for prevention and intervention. The study shall include, but not be limited to, examination of:

- (1) Underserved victim populations and unmet needs;
- (2) Opportunities for enhanced public and private partnerships;
- (3) Knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs that perpetuate or mitigate violence and oppression;
- (4) Trends and projections related to victim needs, services, and funding;
- (5) Cost-benefit analysis of various victim services;
- (6) Offender treatment;
- (7) Services for children who are victims or witnesses; and
- (8) Changing victim and program support needs including, but not limited to, training and technical support.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 166. Introduced by Schimek, 27.

PURPOSE: To study the need for increased and uniform insurance coverage for cochlear implant surgeries and auditory rehabilitation services. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) An examination of insurance coverage available for cochlear implant surgeries and auditory rehabilitation services in Nebraska;
- (2) An examination of the reported qualitative and quantitative benefits of cochlear implants;
- (3) A comparison of other state and federal laws that require coverage for cochlear implant surgeries and auditory rehabilitation services;
- (4) An examination of the fiscal impact of insurance coverage for cochlear implant surgeries on the insurance industry; and
- (5) A review of the availability of cochlear implant surgeries and auditory rehabilitation services in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 167. Introduced by Flood, 19.

PURPOSE: To evaluate the nature and scope of state resources that should be devoted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, the state's only comprehensive PhD-granting institution for nurses, with primary emphasis placed on ensuring the long-term sustainability of a new Northern Nebraska Division of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing.

Several recent studies have demonstrated an ongoing and critical shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs) since 1998 in the United States and particularly in rural states like Nebraska. Projections indicate that the national demand for RNs will exceed the available supply by twenty percent in 2020, and in many rural areas of Nebraska the projected demand will exceed the supply by twenty to thirty percent by 2020. In the last year, more than twenty states have developed significant policy and funding responses to address the critical and unique RN and faculty workforce needs of their respective states. The feasibility study conducted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2006 illustrates that the shortage of RNs, especially those with baccalaureate and master's degrees, is particularly acute in the northeast region of the state.

This RN shortage endangers quality of care and places patients at increased risk for illness and death. In fact, studies indicate that many of the improved patient outcomes are specifically correlated to baccalaureate-prepared RNs providing direct patient care. The need for these baccalaureate-prepared nurses will only increase in the future in order to

meet the demands of patients and the increasingly complex health care system — a system requiring clinically relevant research that builds the science for nursing practice.

The ability to ensure adequate numbers of RNs with baccalaureate and master's degrees is dependent upon having adequate numbers of doctoral-prepared nursing faculty. At this time, however, the nation is experiencing the most serious shortage of doctoral-prepared nursing faculty ever, with a diminishing pipeline of doctoral enrollees and graduates. This is particularly true in rural states like Nebraska. Yet experience has demonstrated that the economic vitality of a community's hospital and health care resources is essential to the economic growth of a region, especially in those rural communities where each job in the health care sector has been shown to generate additional jobs and revenue in other sectors of the rural economy.

At this time, there are no public institutions in the northeast region of the State of Nebraska that produce baccalaureate and higher-degreed RNs.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 168. Introduced by Flood, 19; Stuthman, 22.

PURPOSE: To study several issues relating to Nebraska's emergency protective custody (EPC) procedures.

Law enforcement across the state is expending considerable resources in connection with (1) securing placements for individuals who are detained pursuant to Nebraska's EPC procedures and (2) transporting such individuals to such placements. Deputies who would otherwise be patrolling their jurisdictions are frequently called upon to transport EPC individuals to facilities outside their jurisdictions. Oftentimes, these officers find themselves transporting the same individuals to facilities within their jurisdiction a short time later, when free beds in local facilities come open.

As Nebraska continues implementing its long-term plans for mental health reform, with a focus on increasing community-based services, law enforcement will continue to face these difficulties. In an effort to enhance public safety while maximizing tax dollars, this study will include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The availability of beds for individuals detained pursuant to the EPC statutes;

(2) The feasibility of a statewide, toll-free telephone hotline for law enforcement officers to use in order to locate facilities that are accepting individuals in EPC; and

(3) The feasibility of delaying the return of an EPC individual to the originating jurisdiction from an out-of-jurisdiction placement until the time

necessary for the individual to consult with legal counsel and attend the mental health board hearing, unless otherwise practicable for law enforcement.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 169. Introduced by Kopplin, 3; Adams, 24; Dierks, 40; Hansen, 42; Harms, 48; Howard, 9; Nantkes, 46; Pahls, 31; Pedersen, 39; Schimek, 27; Stuthman, 22; Ashford, 20.

PURPOSE: To study public school funding in Nebraska to determine if there exists a need to either revise the current method of school financing or design and implement a new method of school financing.

Since the current method of public school financing, the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA), was passed by the Legislature in 1990, the act has undergone many changes and modifications. In addition, since TEEOSA was first implemented, the landscape of education in Nebraska has dramatically changed. The state has become increasingly diverse and a greater strain has been placed on the resources necessary to finance education. While the overall student population in the state has dropped by approximately 3,000 students, the number eligible for free or reduced price lunch has increased by over 90,000 students. On the national level, the emphasis in education has changed from providing universal access to universal achievement.

The issues to be addressed by this study shall include the following:

- (1) What level of funding is sufficient to meet state accreditation standards and fund essential educational opportunities in each school district in the state;
- (2) What are the appropriate mechanisms to address special needs, sparsity, poverty, and the growing immigrant population;
- (3) The role of property tax in funding public school education;
- (4) The use of incentives to employ more highly qualified teaching and instructional support staff, as measured by level of certification, postsecondary education, experience, and skill standards;
- (5) What resources would be necessary to focus on increasing educational opportunity and universal achievement;
- (6) Funding stability;
- (7) School district accountability in the use of state funds for education;
- (8) The efficacy and cost of implementing increased student support mechanisms such as an extended school day and teaching time, tutoring support, or family support; and
- (9) Other issues as deemed pertinent by the committees.

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

1. That the Education Committee, the Revenue Committee, and the Appropriation Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of this study make a report of the findings, together with any recommendations, to the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 170. Introduced by Nantkes, 46; McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study matters relating to the gardasil vaccine that is used to prevent certain deadly strains of human papillomavirus. The study shall include an examination of other states' activities relative to use of the vaccine, on what populations it is used, and how it is funded.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 171. Introduced by Nantkes, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to research funding alternatives for updating the student information systems at the University of Nebraska. Currently, the vendor that services and updates the student information system at the University of Nebraska will cease operations in 2011. Therefore, it is imperative that alternative methods and funding sources for such systems be explored before that time.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 172. Introduced by Nantkes, 46.

PURPOSE: To examine the Nebraska state college system's existing student information system which was purchased and implemented in 1987 and is now dated and lacks the necessary functions to provide appropriate

administrative support to students and faculty and for accountability reporting.

SunGard Higher Education, the company that serves the existing software system, has indicated that it will cease supporting the software system on December 31, 2011. This lack of critical support for the software system will seriously jeopardize ongoing student and financial operations for the state colleges.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 173. Introduced by Heidemann, 1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to review the adequacy of funding for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis (NCTA). NCTA has a statewide mission of instruction relating to food and agriculture at less than the baccalaureate degree, with concentration on the applied associate degree. By policy of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and state law, NCTA exists as a distinct subprogram of the university and has a separate operating budget. By policy, the Board of Regents does not transfer funds from other university programs if the funds appropriated by the Legislature and generated by NCTA are inadequate to provide for the continued operation of NCTA.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The adequacy of funding for the operating budget of NCTA; and
- (2) The adequacy of funding for the facilities at NCTA.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 174. Introduced by Christensen, 44; Loudon, 49.

PURPOSE: To examine coordination between natural resources districts and state agencies as well as coordination between the state and federal government with respect to surface water flows during times of great need or emergency in Nebraska in order to use our water resources prudently. This study shall include, but not be limited to, assessing the administrative,

legal, and physical barriers to diverting water to avoid and minimize unnecessary damage caused by flooding, ice jams, and drought.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 175. Introduced by Christensen, 44; Louden, 49.

PURPOSE: To examine every major river and stream in Nebraska with respect to stream flow. This study shall identify areas of surplus and shortages currently present in each of these major rivers and streams and compare their current stream flows to their historical stream flows. This study shall also include, but not be limited to, identifying municipal well fields near rivers and streams where shortages exist, to assess the feasibility of slowing the stream flow to help with recharge in shortage areas, and identifying possible techniques to accomplish greater recharge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 176. Introduced by Christensen, 44; Louden, 49.

PURPOSE: To examine and identify areas of historical surplus of surface water in Nebraska and look at the potential development of additional water storage facilities for recreational use, hydroelectric power generation, and transfers for compliance with interstate compacts, agreements, or decrees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 177. Introduced by Christensen, 44; Louden, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the ground water model developed and set forth from the Final Settlement Stipulation of the Republican River Compact due to questions regarding inputs and accounting. This study shall look at the ground water modeling process as a whole and identify potential improvements to the overall fairness and accuracy of the model. This study shall include, but not be limited to, the examination of the inputs and accounting currently being used in the ground water model to assess whether such inputs and accounting accurately represent all the variables currently present in the Republican River Basin that have actual and real influence on the outcomes of the model and actual stream flows that may negatively affect Nebraska's compliance to the compact and stipulation. This study shall develop recommendations and present them in a report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 178. Introduced by Christensen, 44; Ashford, 20.

PURPOSE: To examine the nature and consistency of local firearm regulation across the State of Nebraska. Presently, Nebraska has a patchwork of local ordinances regulating the possession, use, and transport of firearms and the carrying of concealed firearms. Many of these local enactments appear inconsistent with applicable state law, and there is disagreement with regard to those instances in which state statutes preempt local ordinances. Nebraskans have a right to expect a reasonable degree of consistency within the state's borders with respect to the regulation of firearms. Being subject to inconsistent and possibly conflicting firearm regulation from one jurisdiction to another places otherwise law-abiding citizens in danger of arrest for purely inadvertent and otherwise innocent actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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 hold two or more public hearings to receive testimony on the subject of this resolution for the purpose of giving citizens in all areas of Nebraska a chance to offer their views.

3. 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 179. Introduced by Fischer, 43.

PURPOSE: The federal REAL ID Act of 2005 will be implemented on May 11, 2008. The act provides a detailed list of certain standards, procedures, and requirements for issuing state driver's licenses and identification cards if such documents are to be accepted as identity documents by the federal government. The United States Department of Homeland Security has recently issued its notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the act. The final rule adopted by the department is likely to have several changes made to required processes. Regardless, the act will have a profound impact on Nebraska's current driver's license and identification card issuing practices. Planning and investigation has already begun on how Nebraska driver's license and identification card holders will be affected.

The study shall consider the different alternatives available to the Department of Motor Vehicles in implementing the REAL ID Act of 2005, including central issuance and regional sites and the consequences of gravitating towards such a business model. In addition, the study will analyze the final rule adopted by the United States Department of Homeland Security, what it means to Nebraska's citizens, and what the Department of Motor Vehicles has done in investigating possible alternatives if Nebraska were to begin implementing the act.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 180. Introduced by Fischer, 43.

PURPOSE: Off-road vehicles are becoming increasingly prevalent in our society. These vehicles include, but are not limited to, all-terrain vehicles, minibikes, minitrucks, neighborhood electric vehicles, golf carts, and motorized scooters. Many of these vehicles have been introduced to the highways in recent years and are not considered in the Nebraska motor vehicle titling and registration statutes or the Nebraska Rules of the Road.

The committee shall conduct a review to determine whether Nebraska's laws are sufficient and clear as to the titling, registration, and operation of these vehicles on the highways and the implications of allowing these vehicles on state and local highways.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 181. Introduced by Fischer, 43.

PURPOSE: Broadband Internet service has been widely held to be crucial to a community and its residents. Broadband networks can increase productivity and drive economic growth, improve education, and allow consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions. The Federal Communications Commission has stated that it believes wireless broadband, as well as other alternative broadband platforms, such as satellite and broadband over power lines, can create a competitive broadband marketplace and bring the benefits of lower prices, better quality, and greater innovation to consumers. Municipal-provided wireless Internet has become an avenue being explored in communities across the nation, including several who have such a service up and running.

The committee will examine the current municipal-provided wireless Internet services and their overall success, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of providing such a system. The study will also consider the implications of Laws 2005, LB 645, and what restrictions current law places on municipal-provided wireless Internet service.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 182. Introduced by Kruse, 13.

PURPOSE: To study retirement benefits provided to public employees in Nebraska. The study shall include a comparison of the benefits provided and cost of defined benefit and defined contribution plans and retirement ages.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 183. Introduced by Nantkes, 46; Hansen, 42; Karpisek, 32; McGill, 26; Rogert, 16.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study security matters at the Nebraska State Capitol. The study shall include, in addition to legislative staff and state senators, the participation of representatives from the Nebraska Office of Homeland Security, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Nebraska Supreme Court, and the offices of the Governor, Attorney General, State Auditor, Secretary of State, and other entities housed within the Nebraska State Capitol.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the board shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 184. Introduced by Nantkes, 46; Engel, 17; Fulton, 29; Harms, 48; Kruse, 13; Nelson, 6; Synowiecki, 7; Wightman, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the legislative appropriations process, to examine alternative methods of creating state budgets, including different methods of processing state agency funding requests, and the viability of zero-based budgeting.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 185. Introduced by Nantkes, 46; Cornett, 45; Gay, 14; Karpisek, 32; Nelson, 6; Rogert, 16; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to direct the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature to study the film industry in Nebraska as it relates to economic development and employment of our citizens. The study shall include, but not be limited to, evaluation of the types and numbers of jobs in Nebraska created by the film industry, the occurrence of these opportunities, the revenue generated in Nebraska by the film industry, and what can be done to encourage further job growth in this area.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 186. Introduced by Pedersen, 39.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine section 14-109 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, regarding the authority for metropolitan class cities to collect occupation taxes, specifically wheel taxes, and the effect of expanding the collection of these taxes to persons who live beyond the city limits and zoning jurisdiction of the city.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 187. Introduced by Dierks, 40.

PURPOSE: To examine ways to maximize rural economic development benefits of agricultural land and commodities. In particular, the study shall examine ways to keep markets accessible to local farmers and business persons and keep the benefits of ownership with local residents and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 188. Introduced by Dierks, 40.

PURPOSE: To study the duties of Nebraska's Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee. This committee was established in 2000 with the passage of LB 957. The study would reexamine the mission of the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee due to the completion of its initial responsibilities. A future role for this committee must be considered in light of a viable national carbon market.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 189. Introduced by Janssen, 15.

PURPOSE: To examine the possibility of exempting car washes from the sales tax.

This study shall examine:

- (1) Similar tax policies of states surrounding Nebraska;
- (2) The current level of tax remitted by car washes by both local and state government; and
- (3) A methodology for replacing revenue lost by both the state and local political subdivisions as a result of a car wash sales tax exemption.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 190. Introduced by Janssen, 15.

PURPOSE: To examine issues relating to legalizing the sale of all liquor on Sundays. Currently, Nebraska law prohibits the sale of alcohol, except beer and wine, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Sundays. This study would examine the potential of allowing, by ordinance of a local governing body, that liquor be sold as well during hours of operation on Sundays.

This study shall address the following issues:

- (1) The option for enabling city governments to allow liquor to be sold from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Sundays; and
- (2) The history of the current liquor law.

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

1. That the General Affairs 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 191. Introduced by Flood, 19.

PURPOSE: The goal of this interim study is to examine how LB 1114 (1996) and LB 904 (2006) have affected second class cities and villages.

In 1996, the Legislature passed LB 1114, which lowered the property tax lid for second class cities and villages from one dollar and five cents to forty-five cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation. Floor discussions on LB 1114 recognized that such action could prove to be devastating for smaller communities that could not make up the lost revenue through the local option municipal sales tax and/or consolidation of services.

There was some indication that state aid may be one mechanism for alleviating this burden.

In 2006, the Legislature passed LB 904, which, among other things, required cities and counties to spend any local sales tax collected from sales of motor vehicles for street and road purposes, except instances where existing sales tax revenue was pledged for bonds issued for other purposes or other revenue sources were pledged for bonds issued for street and road purposes.

It is the intent of this interim study to analyze the effect that these municipal spending restrictions have had on cities of the second class and villages.

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

1. That the Revenue 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 192. Introduced by Pankonin, 2.

PURPOSE: To study the practice of mail solicitations by issuers of bank credit cards and consider whether legislation regarding this practice would be appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 193. Introduced by Raikes, 25.

PURPOSE: To investigate and review matters and issues arising during the interim which are within the jurisdiction of the Education Committee of the Legislature.

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

1. That the Education 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 194. Introduced by Raikes, 25.

PURPOSE: To examine policy changes that should be pursued that would encourage more Nebraskans to avail themselves of opportunities for higher education in the state. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall conduct a study of the following:

- (1) A determination of the current college attendance rate in Nebraska;
- (2) An identification of Nebraska policies that create possible impediments for Nebraskans who want to pursue higher education in the state;
- (3) An examination of how the availability of need-based aid affects decisions about pursuing higher education; and
- (4) An exploration of additional policies that could be initiated to increase the college attendance rate in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Education 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 195. Introduced by Schimek, 27.

PURPOSE: (1) Recent federal investigations into the state's veterans homes and the Beatrice State Developmental Center have identified systematic problems of staffing, oversight, and patient care.

(2) The state's regional centers have been realigned to provide an array of services to sexual offenders, children, and adults with severe behavioral health problems. The regional centers have been the subject of litigation regarding patient care and employee injuries, which have risen sharply since the realignment.

(3) Nebraska's correctional facilities have exceeded their capacity and the corresponding staffing, inmate care, and oversight issues are growing.

(4) This study shall examine and provide recommendations relating to the state's operation of facilities that provide twenty-four-hour care to the citizens of Nebraska.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 196. Introduced by Janssen, 15.

PURPOSE: To review the findings of the Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan Update.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the original Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan from 1999, including an update on the status of the recommendations found in the Master Plan; and

(2) A review of the Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan Update and the recommendations and findings contained in the update.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 197. Introduced by Cornett, 45.

PURPOSE: To study the workers' compensation program in order to evaluate the use, cost-effectiveness, and benefit of the current vocational rehabilitation program and to determine whether it is meeting the Legislature's goals.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 198. Introduced by Loudon, 49.

PURPOSE: To examine the benefits, costs, and data collection from flow meters installed to measure ground water use and surface water use, and to determine whether use of flow meters should be mandated in all river basins.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 199. Introduced by Ashford, 20.

PURPOSE: To examine the existing first degree sexual assault and statutory rape statute, Neb. Rev. Stat. section 28-319, and research similar laws in other jurisdictions to determine:

(1) If the existing minimum penalties for first offense first degree sexual assault are adequate to protect victims, provide a deterrent, and punish offenders; and

(2) If the current statutory structure for the crime of statutory rape in Nebraska is adequate and whether approaches in other jurisdictions, including those which provide graduated penalties based upon the ages of the parties, which allow for a defense for misrepresentation of fact or for consideration of mitigating circumstances at sentencing would better serve the interests of the state and the victims of this crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 200. Introduced by Ashford, 20.

PURPOSE: To examine the guardian ad litem statutes and several proposals for reform of the juvenile legal services system. Specifically, the study shall examine how guardians ad litem should be appointed, how they should be managed, whether there should be guidelines and standards regulating the guardian ad litem practice across the state, and whether a centralized office should be created to oversee such guidelines and standards. The study shall also identify ways to improve legal representation in juvenile court cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 201. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To examine existing policies and practices with regard to non-English speaking families in the Nebraska child welfare system. The committee shall examine the current availability and utilization of translation and interpreter services, at what points in a child abuse or neglect case translation and interpreter services are or are not provided, and to what extent the rights of non-English speaking families across the state are being adequately protected in the process.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 202. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: The Legislature finds that:

(1) The health of our children is of paramount importance to families in our state.

(2) Poor child health is a threat to the educational achievement, social, and psychological well-being of the children of our state.

(3) Nebraska has more parents in the workforce than most states and more jobs that are part-time, seasonal, or without full benefit packages.

(4) Many other factors have caused health care premiums to increase dramatically for the last several years, making it difficult for employers and low to middle income families to maintain coverage.

(5) The state children's health insurance program (SCHIP) of this state, which enrolled 44,981 uninsured children in federal fiscal 2006, is an integral part of the arrangement for health benefits for the children of the State of Nebraska.

(6) The average monthly cost for SCHIP per child, including state and federal funds, was \$152.00 in Fiscal Year 2006.

(7) The federal State Children's Health Insurance Program covered 24,226 children as of March 2007, and the state depends on the federal government's enhanced match rate payment of 71% of the cost of this program.

(8) A small reduction in the enhanced match rate could result in either a large increase in state expenditures to provide coverage for eligible children or in the loss of insurance coverage for poor children.

(9) The federal State Children's Health Insurance Program should be reauthorized and funded by Congress by December 31, 2007, to provide stable funding, to cover existing covered children, to cover children eligible but not enrolled, to provide flexibility, and to be affordable; and

(10) There is a need to review the availability of insurance and types of coverage provided, particularly for jobs with wages that bring families to an income level of at least 200% to 400% of the poverty level. This review will include the number of employers offering coverage, the types of coverage offered, the cost to employees, the number of Nebraskans not employed by employers offering affordable coverage, and the number of those households that have children.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to determine what actions might

be taken to harmonize Nebraska's state children's health insurance program to changes allowed by the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program as reauthorized and funded by Congress and the availability of other types of insurance to meet the needs of lower-income Nebraskans and their children.

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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 203. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: In 2004, the State of Nebraska passed LB 1083 to reform behavioral health services, moving services from state regional centers to community-based sites and increasing the focus on recovery, thereby requiring providers of behavioral health services to have new competencies. LB 1083 requires the state to "promote activities in research and education to improve the quality of behavioral health services, the recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals, and the availability of behavioral health services".

The United States Department of Health and Human Services currently designates over ninety-five percent of Nebraska's counties as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Further, ninety of ninety-three counties are designated as Psychiatric Shortage Areas. These shortages have led to well-documented problems such as hospital and emergency rooms and jails and prisons bearing the brunt of the responsibility of care for patients needing more specialized and appropriate treatment. As the state works toward moving services from institutional to community-based care, there is a recognition that many of the professionals necessary to provide these services are difficult to hire due to this shortage.

In 2003, Senator Jim Jensen and Governor Mike Johanns requested a study of behavioral health service, education, and research issues from the academic medical centers in the state which generated "The Nebraska Academic Health Centers Plan for Excellence in Behavioral Health" which outlined numerous behavioral health issues and recommendations.

In 2004, the Nebraska Health and Human Services System established the Academic Support Workgroup in order to outline a plan to address the shortage and competency issues. The workgroup brought together many stakeholders involved in behavioral health care, including clinicians, educators, researchers, advocates, consumers, and system administrators with a wide range of educational backgrounds and institutional and academic affiliations. In 2005, the Academic Support Workgroup outlined a comprehensive plan to improve the behavioral health workforce in "A Behavioral Health Education and Research System for Nebraska." This plan includes recruitment of talented students into the field, improved undergraduate and graduate training in behavioral health, enhanced training opportunities in rural areas and increased use of telehealth technology, increased focus on recovery competencies, enhanced training in behavioral health for primary care providers, and improved continuing education in behavioral health, especially for providers in rural areas.

The purpose of this study is to examine the need for a statewide behavioral health workforce development plan and adequate funding to implement the plan.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a study concerning statewide behavioral health education to address workforce shortage and delineate a range of proposals to "promote activities in research and education to improve the quality of behavioral health services, the recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals, and the availability of behavioral health services."
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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 204. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To conduct a thorough review of LB 463, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007, and provide for the preparation of additional draft legislation relating to the Uniform Credentialing Act, which has an operative date of December 1, 2008. The committee shall also conduct an extensive review of existing disciplinary policies and procedures under the Uniform Licensing Law and propose necessary and appropriate changes to such policies and procedures and prepare draft legislation for introduction in the 2008 legislative session.

The study shall be conducted in consultation with the Governor, the chief medical officer, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 205. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To conduct additional research and provide for the development of additional recommendations and the possible introduction of appropriate legislation in the 2008 legislative session relating to the implementation of Laws 2004, LB 1083, and the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act.

The study shall be conducted in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Division of Behavioral Health Services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 206. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To conduct additional research and provide for the development of additional recommendations and the possible introduction of appropriate legislation in the 2008 legislative session relating to the Welfare Reform Act and Nebraska public assistance programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The study shall be conducted in consultation with the Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 207. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To conduct additional research and provide for the development of additional recommendations and the possible introduction of appropriate legislation in the 2008 legislative session relating to the implementation of the Medicaid Reform Plan submitted pursuant to Laws 2005, LB 709, and the Medical Assistance Act, sections 68-901 to 68-949, pursuant to Laws 2006, LB 1248.

The study shall be conducted in consultation with the Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 208. Introduced by Johnson, 37.

PURPOSE: To conduct additional research and provide for the development of additional recommendations and the possible introduction of appropriate legislation in the 2008 legislative session relating to the reorganization of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System pursuant to Laws 2007, LB 296.

The study shall be conducted in consultation with the Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 210. Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Louden, 49, Chairperson; Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Dubas, 34; Fischer, 43; Hudkins, 21; Kopplin, 3; Wallman, 30.

PURPOSE: To investigate and review matters and issues arising during the interim which are within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDDTH 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.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 219. Introduced by Judiciary Committee; Ashford, 20, Chairperson; Lathrop, 12; McDonald, 41; Pedersen, 39; Pirsch, 4; and Christensen, 44; Engel, 17.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to:

(1) Study the history of stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning, including the available sources of human stem cells, research involving embryonic and nonembryonic human stem cells, and the methods and techniques used to obtain both embryonic and nonembryonic stem cells;

(2) Research the terminology utilized to describe the various techniques and technologies involved in stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning so that a common understanding can be established;

(3) Identify and analyze the arguments for and against stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning, including the techniques utilized to obtain stem cells for research and the use of tax dollars to fund such research; and

(4) To review past and present legislation involving stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning and efforts to study the ethical issues involved in stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, and human therapeutic cloning at both the state and national levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH 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.

**INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS
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