

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 218

Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Langemeier, 23, Chairperson; Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Dubas, 34; Haar, 21; McCoy, 39; Schilz, 47; Smith, 14; Avery, 28; Fischer, 43; Fulton, 29; Harms, 48; Harr, 8; Larson, 40; Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: To study all possible sources of revenue that could be used to establish a dedicated funding source for water management activities in Nebraska. The water management activities in Nebraska are of critical importance and must be addressed to achieve and maintain economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, welfare, and sustainability of our water resources. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An examination of current Nebraska statutes relating to water use in Nebraska;

(2) An examination of the overall funding needs for water management activities in Nebraska, including an analysis of the resources needed to provide sufficient research and technical data, modeling, and studies to decision makers;

(3) An examination of LB 962 (2004), which put into statute proactive components of integrated management of surface water and ground water and the necessary funding to continue implementation and enforcement of the bill's policies;

(4) An examination of the State of Nebraska's obligations related to water management under interstate compacts or agreements and the necessary funding needs to satisfy those obligations; and

(5) An identification of all potential sources of funding to establish a dedicated source for water management activities in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Water Sustainability Funding Task Force be created and administered by the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature and chaired by the Natural Resources Committee chairperson to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall appoint members to the Water Sustainability Funding Task Force. Such members shall include:

(a) The chairperson of the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature;

(b) The chairperson of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature;

(c) The members of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature;

(d) The Director of Natural Resources;

(e) A representative from the office of the Attorney General;

(f) The executive director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust;

(g) A representative of the Game and Parks Commission;

(h) Representatives from natural resources districts, public power, municipalities, agricultural groups for every identifiable commodity, parks and recreation interests, environmental, hunting and fishing, and conservationist interests, and irrigators representing Nebraska's river

basins with an equal balance between surface water and ground water users;
and

(i) Other members as the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee deems appropriate.

3. That the Water Sustainability Funding Task Force may create rules of procedure that allow decisions to be based on a consensus decision-making process in which a settlement or solution is determined by all participants through identifying and exploring all parties' interests and assembling a package agreement that satisfies these interests to the greatest extent possible.

4. That the Water Sustainability Funding Task Force shall discuss the issues described in this resolution and such related issues as it deems appropriate, shall identify options for resolution of such issues, and shall make funding policy recommendations to the Legislature and Governor no later than December 1, 2011.