

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 387

Introduced by Hughes, 44.

PURPOSE: Eastern Redcedar (ERC) is a native tree that has always been a fixture on the Nebraska landscape, providing valuable wood products, wind and soil protection, and habitat for a variety of species of wildlife. However, the rapid spread of ERC presents an increasingly serious ecological and economic issue with substantial impacts statewide. Addressing the spread of ERC poses challenges of a magnitude that dwarf the capacity and resources of any one agency or organization.

It is important to understand the factors behind the rapid spread of ERC, including the lack of fire on the landscape (both prescribed fire and wildfire), changes in farm and grazing practices, lack of prevention management, changes in land ownership patterns, and conservation plantings.

The study committee, at a minimum, shall:

- (1) Specifically identify the current threats of ERC spread;
 - (2) Quantify the potential economic loss caused by the spread of ERC;
 - (3) Quantify the loss of wildlife and critical habitat;
 - (4) Explore whether funding streams already exist in state statute for ERC control;
 - (5) Investigate liability concerns that inhibit prescribed burning; and
 - (6) Obtain public feedback on:
 - (a) The best use of ERC as a windbreak;
 - (b) Whether alternative species exist to satisfy the needs of landowners;
- and
- (c) The cost and challenges of ERC management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.