

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 394**

Introduced by Quick, 35.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine policies and practices designed to assist low-income Nebraskans at risk of utility shutoffs due to overdue payments. The study shall focus on whether these programs and policies are effectively preventing Nebraskans from losing critical utility services. The study shall include a review of utility companies' formal written policies with respect to shutoffs, other practices employed by utility providers to reduce and prevent shutoffs, and adherence to the state's "cold weather rule."

The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

(1) The scope and adequacy of regulatory systems governing public and private utility companies;

(2) The application of the cold weather rule in Nebraska; and

(3) Examination of best practices in other states with respect to utility shutoffs, including but not limited to:

(a) Protections that apply to all utility providers, both public and private;

(b) Utilities of all types (i.e., gas, electric, etc.); and

(c) Year-round protections not bound by season or extreme temperatures.

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.