

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 123

Introduced by Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee: Slama, 1, Chairperson; Ballard, 21; Jacobson, 42; Kauth, 31; von Gillern, 4.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the economic impact of manufacturing and processing in Nebraska and to explore the role that advanced manufacturing and smart technologies can play in increasing productivity and economic growth. The study will seek to identify barriers for growth that will allow the Legislature to pursue data-driven policy solutions for this key industry sector.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Data collection and information gathering regarding:

(a) The scope of manufacturing in Nebraska and its impact on the state's economy;

(b) The projected growth of Nebraska's manufacturing and the top barriers to growth, including estimated workforce shortages;

(c) Advanced manufacturing, including smart technologies and automation, and the effects advanced manufacturing has on the workforce in manufacturing, including its impact on skills training and wage growth for existing employees;

(d) How and to what degree advanced manufacturing has been utilized by the manufacturing sector in Nebraska versus other states;

(e) Barriers that Nebraska's small businesses face when attempting to deploy smart technologies and automation; and

(f) The estimated return on investment in advanced manufacturing machinery and equipment; and

(2) Potential ways to spur capital investments in advanced manufacturing in the state and collaboration with appropriate community partners about these solutions.

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