

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 156

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the impact and increased frequency and intensity of wildfires in Nebraska and the sufficiency of the firefighting response to such wildfires. The study should focus on reviewing the resources available in Nebraska to fight wildfires, the limitations and burdens placed upon the present resources used in fighting wildfires in Nebraska, and the development of additional state-supported resources to assist in fighting wildfires. This study shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) An identification of the different resources presently available in fighting wildfires, including those resources supplied by Nebraska's volunteer firefighters, the State Fire Marshal, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska Forest Service, and the Game and Parks Commission;

(2) An examination of the policies and procedures presently used by each of the above entities to fight wildfires, recommended improvements to such policies and procedures, if additional state funding is needed to assist each of such entities to fight wildfires, and if state-funded wildfire task forces should be created to support intrastate mutual aid to fight wildfires; and

(3) A cost-benefit analysis of assigning and funding a state agency, department, program, or division with jurisdiction over wildfire task forces to support intrastate mutual aid.

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