

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 164

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study on improving the handicapped accessibility of parking, entryways into, and interior spaces in the Nebraska State Capitol. The State Capitol has only one entrance that allows handicapped accessibility with a ramp and push button entry, handicapped parking is a great distance from entries, not all restrooms are adapted for handicapped accessibility, and elevators are not large enough to accommodate some wheelchairs.

Due to the historic nature of the State Capitol and physical structure, certain handicapped accessibility changes may not be feasible. However, the State Capitol should be accessible to employees, citizens, and visitors to the greatest extent possible.

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

(1) Parking access at the State Capitol, including the potential conversion of the reserved parking spots on the north side of the State Capitol, under the steps, to handicapped parking spaces and the potential creation of handicapped spaces on all four sides of the building with ramp-equipped vehicle accommodations to allow for safer loading and unloading;

(2) Entryways into the State Capitol, including the potential creation of ramps on the east and west sides, handrails on all steps, curb cuts on the curb that extend directly out of the south entrance, and push-button entry systems on all doors into the building, and the potential extension of the step immediately outside the south entrance door, to be compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;

(3) Bathroom accessibility at the State Capitol, including the potential

creation of push-button entry and exit systems for restrooms and grab bars on at least one side in each stall area; and

(4) Elevators in the State Capitol, including potential access to the freight elevator in the northwest quadrant at all times, with appropriate signage to direct employees and visitors, and extending handrails to the top and bottom of all staircases.

In order to carry out the purposes of this resolution, the board shall consult with the Nebraska Capitol Commission.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the board shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.