

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 583

Introduced by Haar, 21.

Read first time January 23, 2013

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to amend sections 2-4901 and
2 2-4902, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change
3 provisions relating to membership on the Climate
4 Assessment Response Committee; to provide additional
5 duties for the committee; and to repeal the original
6 sections.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 2-4901, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 2-4901 (1) The Climate Assessment Response Committee is
4 hereby created. The office of the Governor shall be the lead agency
5 and shall oversee the committee and its activities. The committee
6 shall be composed of representatives appointed by the Governor with
7 the approval of a majority of the Legislature from livestock
8 producers, crop producers, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency,
9 the High Plains Regional Climate Center in the School of Natural
10 Resources of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Conservation
11 and Survey Division and Cooperative Extension Service of the
12 University of Nebraska. The Director of Agriculture or his or her
13 designee, the chief executive officer of the Department of Health and
14 Human Services or his or her designee, and the Director of Natural
15 Resources or his or her designee shall be ex officio members of the
16 committee. Representatives from the federal Consolidated Farm Service
17 Agency and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation may also serve on the
18 committee at the invitation of the Governor. The chairperson of the
19 Committee on Agriculture of the Legislature and the chairperson of
20 the Committee on Natural Resources of the Legislature shall be
21 nonvoting, ex officio members of the committee. The Governor may
22 appoint a member of the Governor's Policy Research Office and any
23 other state agency representatives or invite any other federal
24 agencies to name representatives as he or she deems necessary. The
25 Governor shall appoint one of the Climate Assessment Response

1 Committee members to serve as the chairperson of the committee.
2 Committee members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary
3 expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

4 (2) The committee shall meet at least twice each year and
5 shall meet more frequently (a) at the call of the chairperson, (b)
6 upon request of a majority of the committee members, and (c) during
7 periods of drought or other severe climate situations.

8 (3) The chairperson may establish subcommittees and may
9 invite representatives of agencies other than those with members on
10 the committee to serve on such subcommittees.

11 (4) Any funds for the activities of the committee and for
12 other climate-related expenditures may be appropriated directly to
13 the office of the Governor for contracting with other agencies or
14 persons for tasks approved by the committee.

15 Sec. 2. Section 2-4902, Reissue Revised Statutes of
16 Nebraska, is amended to read:

17 2-4902 The Climate Assessment Response Committee shall:

18 (1) Provide timely and systematic data collection,
19 analysis, and dissemination of information about drought and other
20 severe climate occurrences to the Governor and to other interested
21 persons;

22 (2) Provide the Governor and other interested persons
23 with information and advice relevant to requests for federal disaster
24 declarations and to the use of funds and other types of assistance
25 available to the state because of such declarations;

1 (3) Establish criteria for startup and shutdown of
2 various assessment and response activities by state and federal
3 agencies during drought and other climate-related emergencies;

4 (4) Provide an organizational structure that assures
5 information flow and defines the duties and responsibilities of all
6 agencies during times of drought and climate-related emergencies;

7 (5) Maintain a current inventory of state and federal
8 agency responsibilities in assessing and responding to drought and
9 other climate-related emergencies;

10 (6) Provide a mechanism for the improvement of methods of
11 assessing impacts of drought on agriculture and industry;

12 (7) Provide such other coordination and communication
13 among federal and state agencies as is deemed appropriate by such
14 committee; ~~and~~

15 (8) Provide the Governor and other interested persons
16 with information and research on the impacts of climate change in
17 Nebraska, including impacts on physical, ecological, and economic
18 areas, and attempt to anticipate the unintended consequences of
19 climate adaptation and mitigation;

20 (9) Facilitate communication between stakeholders and the
21 state about climate change impacts and response strategies;

22 (10) Prepare a long-term strategic report for the
23 Governor and the Legislature on how the State of Nebraska should
24 prepare for climate variability and change, including, but not
25 limited to, preparation for effects on water, wildlife, ecosystems

1 and forests, electricity, agriculture, and outdoor recreation. The
2 report shall examine the complete impacts and vulnerability
3 assessment centered on a range of plausible climate scenarios to
4 prioritize Nebraska's key climate threats and vulnerabilities and
5 point to adaptations that could reduce costs and potential losses.
6 The report shall include key points, overarching recommendations, and
7 options that emerge either explicitly or implicitly from the results
8 of the study. The committee shall present the final report and any
9 minority report on September 1, 2014; and

10 ~~(8)~~(11) Perform such other climate-related assessment
11 and response functions as are desired by the Governor.

12 Sec. 3. Original sections 2-4901 and 2-4902, Reissue
13 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.