

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 322

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the potential for the expansion of fruit and produce gleaning in Nebraska. Gleaning is the act of collecting post-harvest crops from farmers' fields and orchards after the crops have been commercially harvested and it is not economically feasible to harvest further. Gleaning can also occur at farmer's markets when unsold fruit and produce remains. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Data compiled by the Department of Agriculture relating to the number of fruit and produce producers in Nebraska;

(2) The estimated amount of edible crop left in the field or that does not make it to market;

(3) Research regarding gleaning as an effective tool in providing fresh fruit and produce to food deserts and reducing food waste;

(4) Research regarding the environmental impact of food waste that is placed into landfills;

(5) The best practices in Nebraska, other states, and countries to increase opportunities for gleaning;

(6) Developing performance goals for increasing gleaning opportunities in Nebraska; and

(7) Any legislation needed to incentivize the use of best practices by producers to support gleaning opportunities and help reduce hunger in both rural and urban communities.

The study committee shall work with interested persons including farmers and other producers, food pantries, gleaning organizations, the Department of Agriculture, and other experts on fruit and produce production and harvesting

data, effective gleaning practices, and current food waste reduction best practices.

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

1. That the Agriculture 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.