

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 153

Introduced by Thompson, 14

Read first time January 7, 1999

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska State Patrol; to create a task
- 2 force to study the patrol; and to declare an emergency.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Governor shall commission a study of the
2 Nebraska State Patrol for purposes of examining its mission,
3 structure, and staffing and shall make recommendations for any
4 needed changes. The study shall:

5 (1) Assess the current structure and mission of the
6 Nebraska State Patrol;

7 (2) Review the growth and viability of the
8 mission-related duties of the Nebraska State Patrol as they relate
9 to the patrol's work capacity;

10 (3) Assess the relationship of local law enforcement and
11 the Nebraska State Patrol including, but not limited to,
12 cooperative traffic enforcement, participation in drug task forces,
13 and mutual assistance responses;

14 (4) Review the staffing of the Nebraska State Patrol
15 including the resource needs of sparsely populated areas of the
16 state;

17 (5) Review the communication capabilities of the Nebraska
18 State Patrol;

19 (6) Examine the effect that a reduction of current grant
20 funding would have on the mission and budget of the Nebraska State
21 Patrol; and

22 (7) Review any promising programs and strategies
23 implemented by other jurisdictions with respect to their state
24 police departments.

25 Sec. 2. The study shall be conducted by a task force
26 consisting of the Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public
27 Safety, two other members of the Nebraska State Patrol designated
28 by the superintendent, the Director of the Governor's Policy

1 Research Office or his or her designee, and the executive director
2 of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
3 or his or her designee. In addition, the Governor shall appoint to
4 the task force a representative from the State Troopers'
5 Association of Nebraska, a representative from the Nebraska
6 Fraternal Order of Police, two members of the Legislature, a county
7 sheriff or chief of police from each of the six Nebraska State
8 Patrol troop sites, and two at-large members from the general
9 public. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson of the task force
10 from its members. The gubernatorial appointments to the task force
11 shall be made no later than June 1, 1999.

12 Sec. 3. The task force may gather information from
13 interested parties through public hearings and other appropriate
14 means to assure ample opportunities for outside input to be
15 received for consideration. The task force shall complete its work
16 and issue a final report outlining its findings and recommendations
17 to the Governor and the Legislature no later than December 1, 1999.
18 The Department of Public Administration of the University of
19 Nebraska at Omaha will provide administrative support to the task
20 force and shall be responsible for the production and distribution
21 of the final report. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed
22 pursuant to sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 for their actual and
23 necessary expenses during service. It is the intent of the
24 Legislature that any money appropriated by the Legislature for this
25 study shall be appropriated to the Department of Public
26 Administration of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

27 Sec. 4. The task force shall cease to exist on December
28 31, 1999.

1 Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
2 when passed and approved according to law.