

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 16

Introduced by Landis, 46

WHEREAS, consensus building, conflict resolution, and collaborative efforts offer a variety of approaches and processes, including negotiation, facilitation, negotiated rule-making, and mediation to assist in the prevention of conflicts and the building of agreements; and

WHEREAS, these collaborative approaches can supplement and complement traditional processes and are not intended to replace legislative, regulatory, administrative, and judicial mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of these approaches can often result in speedy, cost effective, and enduring resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of these approaches can assist in alleviating caseloads and reducing hearing time; and

WHEREAS, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government on the state and local levels can benefit from approaches that can reduce divisiveness and increase confidence in our democratic systems; and

WHEREAS, these approaches call for the involvement of all stakeholders in order to build agreements that meet everyone's interests and are sustainable and self-enforcing; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of

Nebraska to have the increased opportunity to become actively involved in and responsible for the resolution of conflicts that impact their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution and the state approved mediation centers have assisted state and local governments to prevent and resolve conflicts and have a statewide accessible system in place to handle all types of issues; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska has many practitioners of these collaborative processes who are available to assist government in these efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature for these reasons encourages all levels of government to explore, study, develop, and implement appropriate procedures to allow and enhance the use of the approaches and processes of consensus building, conflict resolution, and collaboration on issues that arise before them.

2. That if upon review of government practices, procedures, statutes, orders, and rules it is revealed that they create barriers to the use of collaborative processes, the Legislature would work with such entities to bring about changes needed to eliminate those barriers.

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PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATURE

I, Patrick J. O'Donnell, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Legislative Resolution 16, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the Ninety-sixth Legislature, First Session, on the XXXX(words)XXXX day of January 1999.

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CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE