

## NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 241**

Introduced by Dierks, 40

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this interim study resolution is to authorize a study on the status of Nebraska soybean research and promotion programs in anticipation of a referendum on the National Soybean Checkoff.

7 U.S.C. 6301-6311, created through the 1990 federal farm bill, provides for the establishment of a coordinated checkoff program of promotion and research designed to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for soybeans and soybean products. Each soybean farmer participates in the checkoff, at a rate of one-half of one cent per bushel market price, at the time the crop is first sold. Half of all checkoff funds remain in the states where they are collected, and their use is directed by state boards of soybean producers. The other half of the checkoff funds is forwarded to the United Soybean Board (USB), where it is invested in national and international programs by fifty-nine soybean producers representing all major U.S. production areas.

The Nebraska Soybean Board is a private, nonprofit checkoff board that is responsible for the research and promotion of soybeans in an effort to increase the profitability of the

state's 22,000 soybean producers. The research and promotion projects of the Nebraska Soybean Board concentrate on the areas of improved soybean varieties, consumer information projects, increased use of soy as a food ingredient for food product manufacturers, new product development, and producer communications.

A mandated five-year poll of producers that determines the need for a referendum on the checkoff will be conducted before the Ninety-sixth Legislature begins its second session in 2000. In such polling, if the United States Secretary of Agriculture determines that at least ten percent of U.S. producers engaged in growing soybeans (not in excess of one-fifth of which may be producers in any one state) support the conduct of a referendum, the secretary must conduct a referendum within one year after that determination. If these requirements are not met, a referendum would not be conducted. If a referendum is conducted and U.S. soybean producers vote to eliminate the National Soybean Checkoff, the State of Nebraska will no longer have a state-coordinated soybean research and promotion program.

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

1. That the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study on the status of Nebraska soybean research and promotion programs in anticipation of a referendum on the National Soybean Checkoff.

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.

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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 241, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the Ninety-sixth Legislature, First Session, on the XXXX(words)XXXX day of May 1999.

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CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE