

## NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 486**

Introduced by Schimek, 27

**PURPOSE:** Volunteer emergency medical response personnel and volunteer firefighters provide a valuable service to our state. Their dedication and sacrifice provide life-saving assistance to many communities and individuals. The people who volunteer their time are finding it more difficult to provide these services due to costs of education and time away from the workplace. Employers also shoulder a cost when the employees are absent from the workplace.

Smaller communities across Nebraska are having a hard time providing the services staffed by these volunteers. Communities are facing the tough decisions to reduce services due to lack of qualified personnel to fill these positions.

The state must try to ensure that emergency medical technicians and volunteer firefighters are given the support they need in order to continue. The safety and well-being of the citizens of this state, the plight of communities facing the loss or reduction of these services, and the employer of the volunteers shall be taken into consideration.

An interim study shall be conducted and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) An inquiry into the amount of personal monetary

contributions that are made by volunteer emergency medical response personnel and volunteer firefighters to our communities;

(2) An inquiry into the cost to employers when employees receive time off to attend emergency medical response and firefighting training sessions and when on emergency calls;

(3) A review of the number of emergency medical and fire calls received and responded to by volunteer emergency medical response personnel and volunteer firefighters; and

(4) An inquiry into the difficulty in finding personnel to volunteer their time as volunteer emergency medical response personnel and volunteer firefighters.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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 by December 1, 2000.

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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 486, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the Ninety-sixth Legislature, Second Session, on the XXXX(words)XXXX day of March 2000.

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CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE