

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 432

Introduced by Brown, 6; Friend, 10; Redfield, 12; Thompson, 14

Read first time January 13, 2005

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to counties; to create and provide duties for a
2 task force; to require a report; and to declare an
3 emergency.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The County Issues Task Force is created. The
2 task force shall study issues relating to county government,
3 recommend improvements, and evaluate the implementation of the
4 improvements. The task force shall consist of two members of the
5 Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative
6 Council and the following members appointed by the Governor: (1)
7 Three county commissioners from each of the three congressional
8 districts; (2) one official elected on a countywide basis from each
9 of the three congressional districts; and (3) one member of the
10 general public from each of the three congressional districts. The
11 chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
12 Committee of the Legislature and the executive director of the
13 Nebraska Association of County Officials shall serve as ex officio
14 members of the task force. The appointments to the task force
15 shall be made no later than June 15, 2005. The Governor shall
16 appoint the chairperson of the task force from among the appointed
17 members. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their
18 actual and necessary expenses incurred while serving as a member of
19 the task force as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

20 Sec. 2. The County Issues Task Force shall study the
21 current responsibilities of counties under Nebraska law and
22 determine future legislative and executive actions necessary to
23 modernize and streamline county functions. The study shall:

24 (1) Examine current fee structures under law and
25 determine whether such fees should be reduced, increased, or
26 eliminated. Additionally, the task force shall consider whether or
27 not a fee structure is needed for a specific area of county
28 operations;

1 (2) Identify any redundancies in county government and
2 propose legislation which would eliminate such redundancies; and

3 (3) Identify the role of counties in the providing of
4 necessary services, clarify their role in providing such services,
5 and propose legislation to eliminate any services which are no
6 longer necessary or needed.

7 In the interest of efficiency, the task force shall not
8 make recommendations to the Legislature on the issues of
9 city-county merger or consolidation of counties.

10 Sec. 3. The County Issues Task Force may gather
11 information through public hearings and other appropriate means to
12 assure ample opportunity for public input to be received for
13 consideration. The task force shall by a majority vote of all
14 members adopt and issue a report to the Governor and the
15 Legislature no later than December 1, 2005, outlining its findings
16 and recommendations under section 2 of this act.

17 Sec. 4. The findings and recommendations of the County
18 Issues Task Force shall include proposed legislation for the
19 Legislature to consider during the 2006 legislative session.

20 Sec. 5. The staff of the Government, Military and
21 Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall provide
22 administrative support to the task force, including the production
23 and distribution of reports and other documents prepared by the
24 task force. The chairperson of the Government, Military and
25 Veterans Affairs Committee may enter into an agreement with the
26 University of Nebraska to provide research and other services, with
27 payment as determined by the County Issues Task Force.

28 Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect

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1 when passed and approved according to law.