

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 127

Introduced by Avery, 28; Giese, 17; Rogert, 16.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the issue of election day registration. Statistics have shown that states with election day registration experience higher voter turnout than states without election day registration. In the 2008 presidential election, states with election day registration had a seven percent higher voter turnout. The experience in other states has been an increase in turnout among young adults, a group which historically has had low voter turnout rates.

During the 2009 legislative session, two bills allowing election day registration in Nebraska were introduced and heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature. Concerns were raised at the public hearings regarding the number of ballot splits in many precincts and the difficulties of allowing citizens to register and vote at the polling site or the county election official's office.

The issues to be examined by the interim study will include, but are not limited to:

(1) Determining whether it is more appropriate to have a citizen register and vote on election day at the polling site or at the county clerk or election commissioner's office;

(2) Determining what type of identification is necessary

for citizens who wish to register and vote on election day; and

(3) Studying whether a citizen who registers and votes on election day could be given a limited ballot instead of the entire ballot.

Representatives of the Secretary of State's office and county officials, along with other interested parties, will be invited to participate in this study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.