

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 482

Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The demographics of Nebraska's population are changing. In the last decade there has been a dramatic shift of population from the rural areas to the urban areas. This change is expected to continue through the next decade and longer. The shift has dramatic consequences in employment opportunities, generation of tax revenue, placement of retail services, resources for business opportunities, changes in school enrollment, and availability of governmental services for every area of the state.

Changes in the rural areas are accompanied by and, in some cases, exacerbated by technological and economic changes in the agricultural industry. The number of family-operated and owned farms and ranches is dropping. Farms and ranches are growing in size. The average age of farmers and ranchers is getting older and the number of farmers and ranchers is declining. The farm and ranch economy is increasingly influenced by national and international issues outside the control of state government. Corporate interests and out-of-state operators and investors are playing an increasing role in Nebraska agriculture.

Nebraska's urban areas continue to grow, and the issues they face resemble the kind of issues that large metropolitan areas face in other states: Poverty; crime; urban sprawl; a

decrease in lifestyle in inner city neighborhoods; the loss of jobs; an increased need for training workers in new and developing trades and industries; neighborhood redevelopment needs; greater infrastructure needs; building new schools and health care facilities; and development of recreational venues for youth and adults. The purpose of this resolution is to study these issues, and such study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A determination of the amount of state and local tax revenue generated in the rural and urban areas of the state;

(2) A determination of the amount of state and local revenue needs of rural and urban areas of the state;

(3) A determination of how the needs can be met and what changes need to be made in the current revenue distribution to anticipate the changes in demographics; and

(4) An analysis of what governmental services may need to be consolidated or eliminated as a result of population shifts.

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

1. That the Legislature's Planning Committee 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.