

## ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 542

Introduced by Heidemann, 1.

Committee: Executive Board

WHEREAS, the Legislature has enacted budgets during the 2009 regular and special sessions and the 2010 regular session in reaction to a weakened economy and declining revenue to the state General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the budgets enacted for the current budget biennium contained significant reductions to General Fund appropriations and reliance on increased fund transfers and federal fund sources that are one-time sources of support; and

WHEREAS, General Fund projections for the next biennium, ending June 30, 2013, anticipate continued fiscal stress, resulting in a shortfall to balancing the budget to the minimum statutory reserve of three percent for the biennium, by at least \$650 million; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the shortfall demonstrates the inability of state government to sustain current services under current revenue assumptions for the next biennium; and

WHEREAS, removing the obligation of state agencies to perform certain functions and provide certain services will require enabling legislation to be considered by the Legislature during the 2011 session; and

WHEREAS, standing committees of the Legislature and the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, within their subject-matter jurisdiction, control hearing and disposition of enabling legislation that may be required; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the task of enacting the next biennial budget necessitates collaboration of all members of the Legislature, its standing committees, the executive board, and legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that collaboration with the Governor and state agencies will be instrumental to the success of crafting the next biennial budget.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall determine the budget review subject-matter jurisdiction of standing committees and the executive board used for purposes of Legislative Rule 8, section 4.

2. That the Speaker of the Legislature is empowered to convene an ad hoc committee consisting of standing committee chairpersons and the chairperson of the executive board, or a designee that is a member of the standing committee or the executive board, to discuss, plan, and oversee a process for standing committees and executive board to review agency programs and services, including drafting enabling legislation to reduce services and obligations of state government that may be considered during the 2011 session.

3. That the standing committees and executive board shall meet and review the programs within the agencies under their

subject-matter jurisdiction, as determined by the executive board, to identify services, programs, and obligations that may be reduced or eliminated during the 2011 session.

4. That the ad hoc committee collaborate with the Governor and state agencies to determine what enabling legislation may be necessary for introduction during the 2011 session.

5. That the Legislature respectfully requests that the Governor submit a budget recommendation for the biennium ending June 30, 2013, as set forth in law, and that the Governor not only include necessary appropriations bills, but also any and all enabling legislation the Governor deems necessary to conform agency operations and state aid expenditures to the appropriations set forth in the budget recommendation.