

## ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 317**

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

PURPOSE: As evidenced by the Nebraska Meatpacking Industry Workers Bill of Rights, Nebraska recognized that the health, safety, and conditions of its workforce were critical to the success of Nebraska's families and communities. However, data and scores of conversations with meatpacking and poultry workers since passage of the Workers Bill of Rights demonstrate that conditions have not sufficiently improved, and that regularly forced overtime by a few employers causes additional serious risks to worker and food safety, and also creates worrisome parental absences for families.

The purpose of this resolution is to examine how forced overtime on a regular and repeated basis as a regular work practice affects Nebraskans working in meatpacking, poultry, food processing, and other factory work. This study shall identify what policies Nebraska should adopt to strengthen its laws to ensure worker and food product safety in these workplaces. This study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) A review of current overtime conditions in meat and poultry processing plants, food processing plants, and other factories across Nebraska; and

(2) Identifying opportunities to strengthen Nebraska's statutory framework related to regularly and repeated forced overtime and other laws and regulations related to ensuring overtime policies that safeguard worker

safety, food safety, and a strong quality of life for Nebraska families and communities.

The study committee should consult with a variety of stakeholders including Nebraska meatpacking employees and other workers, community and health organizations, union representatives, workers' compensation attorneys, company management, government agencies, and university researchers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.