

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 522

Introduced by Watermeier, 1; Kintner, 2.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the United States Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Administration's (MARAD) designation of the Missouri River from South Sioux City, Nebraska, south to Kansas City, Missouri, as the "M-29 Marine Highway Connector." A marine highway is a designated route for transporting cargo on water and reducing pollution and congestion of roads.

With passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140), the United States Congress pushed for greater use of marine transportation by requiring the DOT's MARAD to identify waterways that could potentially serve as shipping routes. Subsequently, in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010 (Public Law 111-84), the United States Congress authorized federal grants for financially viable short sea routes covering up to 80 percent of total project cost. However, marine transportation is possible when water is at appropriate levels and the United States Army Corps of Engineers' flood-control plans control the amount of water flow in the Missouri River. This study may include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Information on applicable or conflicting federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and policies;

(2) Information on, and processes to establish, a minimum Missouri River depth by and through the United States Army Corps of Engineers or other federal or state agencies;

(3) The impacts that a marine highway has on flood management and control;

(4) The available funding resources and assistance for development on a marine highway;

(5) The utilization of multiple state departments and agencies to focus on potential strategies to enhance marine highway transportation;

(6) The development of multimodal transportation centers;

(7) The environmental impacts on reducing carbon-based pollution by increased marine transportation and reducing over-the-road transportation;

(8) The impact marine transportation will have on road congestion;
and

(9) The economic and recreational impact on state and local economies from marine highways.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.