

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 579

Introduced by Haar, 21; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: There is a great deal of support for solar energy among the general population in Nebraska with polls consistently showing strong majorities supporting solar energy. Many communities and community organizations in Nebraska have shown interest in developing solar projects to benefit their communities. Businesses and agricultural operations have also shown interest in developing solar projects to reduce their electric bills and provide a hedge against increasing utility costs. Some businesses and agricultural operations have shown interest in developing projects that have greater capacity than permitted by the current net metering cap. Solar electricity generation can provide extra value to utilities, businesses, and individuals because it generates most of its electricity at times of peak demand. Solar heating can also provide value to businesses and individuals. There are opportunities for public power to work with private entities to take advantage of incentives, including grant and loan programs.

This study shall examine the following:

- (1) Methods of authorizing solar projects that have community ownership by both municipalities and community organizations;
- (2) Methods of assisting agricultural and business organizations in their efforts to develop solar energy;
- (3) Whether current net metering policies need to be revised, including increasing the net metering capacity limit;
- (4) Whether state incentives are needed to stimulate solar development;
- (5) Examination of the value of solar energy to businesses, individuals, and utilities;
- (6) Methods of assisting the use of solar heating for businesses and

individuals; and

(7) Such other issues as are necessary for a complete examination of this matter.

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

1. That the Natural Resources 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.