

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 3**

Introduced by Harr, 8.

Read first time January 05, 2017

Committee: Executive Board

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds and declares that the 43rd Legislature of Nebraska designated a banner for the State of Nebraska that "consist[ed] of a reproduction of the great seal of the State, charged on the center in gold and silver on a field of national blue" with the passage of House Roll 62, which was signed by the President of the House on March 28, 1925; and

WHEREAS, the 73rd Legislature of Nebraska adopted the 1925 banner as the official state flag of the State of Nebraska, hereby known as the Nebraska flag, with the passage of Legislative Bill 556 on April 10, 1963, and subsequent signature by the Governor on April 23, 1963; and

WHEREAS, national surveys, including those conducted by the North American Vexillological Association, frequently rank the Nebraska flag within the five worst flags of the fifty states; and

WHEREAS, the North American Vexillological Association gives the design of the Nebraska flag a poor grade based on the following reasons:

(a) The application of the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska is an overly complex device, especially when viewed from a distance;

(b) The Nebraska flag is nearly indistinguishable from the designs of nineteen other official state flags that also apply state seals, or portions thereof, on a field of blue;

(c) The 19th century-specific references of the Nebraska flag's symbolism are too narrowly dated to provide a solid sense of timelessness; and

(d) The use of writing on the Nebraska flag diminishes its symbolism; and

WHEREAS, the present Nebraska flag as defined by section 90-102 has

proudly served the State of Nebraska for ninety-two years; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds and declares that the possibility of a better-designed, more iconic Nebraska flag exists.

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

1. The Task Force on the Nebraska State Flag is created. The task force shall consist of ten members, including one member of the Legislature from each congressional district appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, two at-large members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board, one person who is not a member of the Legislature from each congressional district appointed by the Executive Board, and two persons who are not members of the Legislature appointed at large by the Executive Board. The task force shall elect a chairperson from among the legislative members who shall call the meetings of the task force.

2. The task force shall develop a recommendation for the design of a new flag for the State of Nebraska which conforms to the flag design principles of established vexillologic organizations.

3. The Task Force on the Nebraska State Flag shall submit electronically a report to the Clerk of the Legislature with the task force findings on or before December 1, 2017.