

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 117

Introduced by Bostelman, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the extent of surface water irrigation in the state, examine the condition of surface water irrigation projects and infrastructure, understand the status and projected costs of infrastructure rehabilitation projects, and evaluate the anticipated effects relating to completion or delay of those projects. The study may also examine the economic, social, recreational, environmental, and other benefits of water supply infrastructure rehabilitation.

The issues addressed by this interim study may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Identifying the location of current projects in irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power districts, canal companies, and other surface water projects and the effect of such projects on local and statewide water resources;

(2) Identifying the intentional and incidental acres served by surface water projects and the number of surface water irrigators served by such projects;

(3) Computing the number of miles of canals, laterals, pipelines, and drains operated and maintained by the districts for purposes of operating and maintaining surface water irrigation;

(4) Identifying the number, location, size, and purpose of dams, reservoirs, lakes, and other impoundments owned or operated by the districts;

(5) Evaluating information about the age, condition, operation, and maintenance of all surface water facilities owned or operated by the districts;

(6) Ascertaining amounts paid by the State of Nebraska and the federal government as a result of an operating agreement between those entities

relating to the operation and maintenance of surface water projects identified by this study;

(7) Ascertaining the source of funds paid by the State of Nebraska to the federal government as a result of an operating agreement between those entities relating to the operation and maintenance of surface water projects identified by this study;

(8) Determining the benefits to agriculture, recreation, fish and wildlife management, municipalities, industry, the public water supply, and ground water recharge;

(9) Identifying the location of aging surface water infrastructure in Nebraska and compiling an estimate of future funding needed to address such infrastructure; and

(10) Reviewing potential sources for securing such funding, including, but not limited to, project owner financial inputs, local funding options, state funding options, federal funding options from project facility owners, and federal funding options from past development organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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 may upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.