

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 179

Introduced by Arch, 14.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to review the laws, procedures, rules and regulations, and general standards of practice related to the public's participation in the legislative process in a representative form of government. Ensuring that residents of Nebraska have the opportunity to have their voices heard is vital to the legislative process. To ensure fair and useful dialogue, there must be a standard of respect and decorum in place for both the public, that observes, engages, and testifies in front of the Legislature, and the members of the Legislature. It is vital that the Legislature and its leadership promote consistent and equitable procedures that offer the best opportunities for public input.

The interim study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The existing relevant laws, rules and regulations, and official and unofficial practices and procedures relating to the public's role in the policymaking process in Nebraska;

(2) The constitutional provisions relevant to the public's right to access the State Capitol and attend public activities;

(3) The plausibility of requiring that all persons who attend a hearing have an opportunity to be heard on the record;

(4) The existence of uniform rules on public testimony, including public notice of such rules;

(5) Additional methods outside of public hearings available for residents to engage Nebraska lawmakers throughout the lawmaking process and the effectiveness of those alternate methods; and

(6) The elements of continuing the Legislature's tradition of healthy and

open public input into the lawmaking process.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the board shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.