

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 256**

Introduced by Bostar, 29.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the trend of increasing numbers of Nebraska voters who register as nonpartisan and how these voters are currently restricted from fully participating in partisan primary elections for some statewide, federal, and local offices.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Examining potential legislative reforms to allow fuller access to all registered voters to all elections administered with taxpayer dollars;

(2) Examining the increase in the number of Nebraska voters registered as nonpartisan;

(3) Examining Nebraska's history of openness to nonpartisan access in state and local elections, including the shift to a nonpartisan unicameral legislature;

(4) Considering the impact of elections with closed primaries on political competitiveness;

(5) Determining the public cost of administering closed partisan primary elections; and

(6) Considering potential reforms to provide full and fair ballot access in primary elections to nonpartisan voters.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs 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.