

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 461

Introduced by Ballard, 21.

PURPOSE: (1) The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to complement the work of the Infrastructure Review Task Force, conduct a comprehensive examination of Nebraska's highway funding structure, and recommend possible alternatives to the traditional methods that have historically been employed in the state.

(2) While revenue continues to decrease through less fuel consumption and less motor vehicle sales tax revenue, highway construction costs continue to increase through inflationary factors and greater needs due to increased traffic volume.

(3) Nebraska is rapidly approaching the point where sustaining the number one priority of system preservation will be difficult.

(4) This study shall examine several factors surrounding the state of highways in Nebraska, including, but not limited to:

(a) An analysis of the current funding for highways and streets in Nebraska and the emphasis on user fees;

(b) An analysis of the overall effectiveness of the fuel tax in today's economic environment;

(c) An analysis of how the Department of Transportation has responded to lower revenue and higher costs over the past several years, including a reassessment of the priority funding system;

(d) An analysis of how city and county governments have fared under the state's highway revenue structure; and

(e) A review of other states' alternative methods of funding highways, including, but not limited to, bonding, implementing a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) system, tolling, using public-private partnerships, redistributing

current state revenue, and ensuring vehicle taxes are being utilized for highway and road funding.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications 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.