

Legislature's Planning Committee 2010 Report Introduction

The Legislature's Planning Committee was created in 2009, pursuant to LB 653, introduced by Senator John Harms, of Scottsbluff. The committee was formed in June 2009, consisting of:

Senator John Harms, Chair
Senator Mike Gloor, Vice-Chair
Senator Mike Flood, Speaker of the Legislature
Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board
Senator Lavon Heidemann, Chair, Appropriations Committee
Senator Greg Adams
Senator Beau McCoy
Senator Heath Mello
Senator Kate Sullivan

It was decided that the committee, in order to achieve their goals, would be assisted by the Legislative Research Office and the College of Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Committee also formed three sub-committees: 1) Mission Statement and Goals; 2) Research Data Base; and 3) Special Funding. The Mission Statement was adopted and it was decided that there would be nine categories for data collection: Agriculture, Economy, Education, Health & Human Services, Natural Resources, Public Safety, State & Local Government, Telecommunications, and Transportation. The Goals for each category were adopted and it was decided that the Economy section would be completed first. The Research Data Base sub-committee chose benchmarks for the Economy category and Jerry Deichert and John Bartle, with the assistance of grad student Skiarn Issarachaiyos, began collecting data for each benchmark.

The Mission Statement and Goals committee, having completed their task, then became a second research benchmarking committee. The remaining eight categories were divided up between the two sub-committees and benchmarks were picked for each category. Jerry, John, and Skairn then collected data for each category. They also prepared summaries of data and made note of policy considerations for each category. This report consists of the data, summaries, and policy considerations for each of the nine categories.

During this time, the Legislative Research Office prepared for the committee binders, for each of the nine categories, which contain a history of legislation passed in Nebraska for each category during the last thirty years, as well as what is currently being done in other states – compiled from organizations such as the National

Conference of State Legislatures. These binders are available to be checked out in the Legislative Research Office and will be updated each year.

The Planning Committee will also be in charge of updating the data and policy considerations each year for all benchmarks in each category. We are hopeful that this will be of great assistance to Legislators and staff as they craft and debate legislation each Session.

This Report and the Executive Summary are available on the Legislature's Website at <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/reports/lpc.php>.