

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 254

Introduced by Christensen, 44.

PURPOSE: Currently throughout Nebraska there are irrigated acres which have access to both ground water and surface water on the same acres. Such irrigated acres are often called commingled acres. The purpose of this resolution is to examine the concept of regulating commingled acres to only use surface water during years when surface water is plentiful, and to only use ground water during times of scarce surface water supplies. During times when surface water is scarce it would be saved for surface water-only acres and for compliance with compacts, agreements, and decrees. The study shall include, but not be limited to, identifying the number of commingled acres in Nebraska, reviewing potential regulation structures to implement such a concept throughout Nebraska, and reviewing the potential positive and negative consequences of such a water policy in Nebraska.

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