

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 705

Approved by the Governor April 24, 1985

Introduced by Pappas, 42

AN ACT relating to natural resources; to provide for the formation of the Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council; to authorize participation in such council; to provide powers and duties; and to provide for funding.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. The State of Nebraska may enter into agreements for the purpose of providing interstate cooperation and coordination in matters relating to natural resources with two or more of the following states: South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. These states have cultural, economic, social, agricultural, and natural resources similarities as evidenced by such states' (1) past affiliations in interstate organizations such as the Old West Regional Commission and the Missouri River Basin Commission and (2) identity as reclamation states in the Upper and Lower Regions of the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

Sec. 2. For purposes of fostering interstate cooperation and coordination between the states listed in section 1 of this act on matters relating to natural resources, when two or more of such states agree to participate in any agreement pursuant to section 1 of this act, Nebraska may participate in the formation of a Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council, which is hereby authorized.

Sec. 3. Each state participating in the Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council shall pay an equal and proportionate share of money to (1) establish the council, (2) provide for the council's operations and overhead, (3) cover the expense of the member states' participating representatives who are not elected officials or state employees whose expenses are otherwise covered by the states, and (4) carry out the council's purposes.

Sec. 4. The Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council shall consist of the following members:

(1) One senator appointed in the manner prescribed by the senate of such state, except that two senators may be appointed by the Governor of the State of Nebraska from the Unicameral Legislature of the State of Nebraska;

(2) One member of the house of representatives appointed in the manner prescribed by the house of

representatives of such state;

(3) The director or head of the principal state agency that coordinates and regulates matters relating to natural resources in each state;

(4) The director or head of the principal state agency that conducts geological and ground water research, investigations, and monitoring in each state; and

(5) One member appointed by the Governor of each state who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Sec. 5. The duties of the Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council shall be to:

(1) Collect and disseminate information on natural resources including studies, research, and policies between the states;

(2) Engender cooperation among and between the states on matters and issues relating to natural resources;

(3) Promote greater understanding and public awareness of the issues relating to natural resources in the states; and

(4) Make recommendations to the governors and legislatures of the states on matters relating to natural resources of mutual interest and concern in and between the states.

Sec. 6. The Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council may establish offices, employ the necessary staff, sponsor activities and programs, and conduct such meetings as the council deems advisable.

Sec. 7. For purposes of this act there is hereby authorized an initial amount of fifty thousand dollars for the State of Nebraska to enter into agreements with the states listed in section 1 of this act and to carry out the purpose and intent of this act if such sum is matched by at least two other states listed in section 1 of this act. It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds authorized by this section shall be appropriated to the Governor, who shall be responsible for the implementation of this act.