

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 323

Introduced by Haar, 21.

PURPOSE: To study statutes and policies related to increasing renewable energy development in Nebraska.

By the end of 2012, Iowa had developed 5,137 megawatts in wind electricity generation capacity, compared to Nebraska's 459 megawatts. Iowa's wind development has provided millions of dollars in economic benefit to its residents, as well as providing tax revenue for the state and political subdivisions. Iowa's wind development was stated as a major factor in Facebook's decision to invest \$1.5 billion in a data center in Iowa and Google's decision to expand its data center in Council Bluffs. Mid-American Energy recently announced that it plans to add another 1,050 megawatts of wind energy to its portfolio in Iowa.

Iowa's electricity rates, which have historically been higher than Nebraska's, are now lower than Nebraska's rates. Mid-American's announcement that they would expand their wind energy development included a statement that they expected it would save their ratepayers \$10 million per year beginning in 2015.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following issues:

- (1) Methods used by Iowa to encourage renewable energy development;
- (2) Ways that renewable energy development can help maintain low electric rates;

(3) Economic benefits and opportunities for renewable energy development;

(4) New technologies that may be used to enhance the effectiveness of renewable energy projects;

(5) Whether there are opportunities for Nebraska to show leadership in public policy related to renewable energy, such as policies to promote solar energy development; and

(6) Any other issues the study committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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.