

1 **LR 455 OUTLINE**

2 **WHEREAS:**

- 3 • Climate change presents serious, diverse and ongoing issues for Nebraska.
- 4 • Many sectors are impacted; including water resources, agriculture, health care, energy
- 5 generation and use, ecosystems, forestry, rural and urban communities and insurance.
- 6 • The impacts of climate change are projected to become far more serious for future generations.
- 7 • The UNL report entitled *Understanding and Assessing Climate Change Implications for Nebraska*,
- 8 provides the scientific basis for understanding the impacts of climate change for our state.
- 9 • Stakeholder roundtables were conducted as a follow up to the UNL report.
- 10 • **Both the UNL report and the roundtables recommended the creation of a climate action plan.**
- 11 • The UNL report stated, **“Action now is preferable and more cost effective than reaction later.”**
- 12 • **The 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll found that 61 % of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree the**
- 13 **state should develop a plan to address the impacts of climate change.**
- 14 • An effective plan is needed both to reduce the potential negative impacts of climate change and
- 15 take advantage of opportunities from adaptation and mitigation strategies.

16 **ACTION**

17 **Establish a special committee to create a framework for a plan related to climate change**, including:

- 18 • Assessments of vulnerability, risks and economic impacts.
- 19 • Opportunities, including methods of producing food, generating power, or protecting land and
- 20 water that can be used to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

21 The committee would have the following members:

- 22 • Chairperson of Agriculture Committee or his or her designee;
- 23 • Chairperson of Appropriations Committee or his or her designee;
- 24 • Chairperson of Health and Human Services Committee or his or her designee;
- 25 • Chairperson of Education Committee or his or her designee;
- 26 • Chairperson of Natural Resources Committee or his or her designee;
- 27 • Two members at large appointed by the Executive Board.

28 The committee would choose a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members.

29 The committee shall:

- 30 • Gather, share, examine and analyze data and information related to climate change.
- 31 • Examine laws, policies and planning efforts related to climate change in other states; and
- 32 current laws, programs and policies in Nebraska.
- 33 • Examine funding opportunities including grant programs.
- 34 • Establish a framework for a plan for the State of Nebraska related to the impacts of climate
- 35 change that includes:
- 36 a. Measurable goals.
- 37 b. Recommendations for new policies and changes to policies and programs that support the goals,
- 38 including funding needs and recommendations for legislation.
- 39 • Seek information and encourage participation from state agencies, political subdivisions,
- 40 educational institutions, academic experts, advocacy organizations and members of the public.
- 41 This may include one or more public hearings.
- 42 • Submit a framework for a climate plan with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature
- 43 on or before December 31, 2016.