

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 402

Introduced by McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to assess the ranking criteria and practices of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The six-member grants committee votes on which projects are eligible for grants with only projects that have at least three of the six members rate the project a perfect score of eleven being eligible for grants.

This year the committee deemed eighty-two of the one hundred eighteen projects eligible for grants, an abnormally low amount. Of those eighty-two, seventy-one projects were granted funding, so the trust only spent around fourteen million dollars out of the approximately twenty million dollars allocated to the trust to spend this year. The funding of only sixty percent of the project applications and expenditure of only sixty-five percent of the funds authorized is unprecedented. The rating of the grants this year also raises a concern as rating scores differed wildly and illogically for projects that had traditionally been funded. One project that had received funding each previous year it had applied was deemed ineligible, with two reviewers rating it an eleven and another rating it a two. The study is intended to assess the rating criteria of the Nebraska Environmental Trust and any other potential factors that might result in such unprecedented changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.