

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 601

Introduced by Hilkemann, 4; Kolowski, 31; Krist, 10; McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: In 2015, the City of Omaha initiated discussions with Douglas County and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to explore an opportunity to open an independent, full-service, accredited crime laboratory on the UNMC campus. The Attorney General joined the discussions in early 2016.

The facility would merge forensic testing currently offered by the Omaha Police Department, the Douglas County Sheriff, the State of Nebraska, and UNMC into one central facility, and provide timely and accurate evidence processing for prosecutors, investigators, suspects, and victims of crime. The crime laboratory would house UNMC academic and training programs, the Nebraska Organ Recovery System, the Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska, and forensic pathology and offer services to law enforcement agencies throughout eastern Nebraska.

The purpose of this resolution is to review present facilities, determine the needs and options for developing a regional certified crime laboratory in the Omaha area, and examine the feasibility of the state becoming a partner.

The study shall be conducted by a select committee consisting of: (1) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee and one additional member of such committee, (2) the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee and one additional member of such committee, and (3) three at-large members appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

In conducting the study, the select committee shall consult with the City of Omaha, the Omaha Police Department, Douglas County, the Douglas County Sheriff, the Douglas County Attorney, the Attorney General, UNMC, and law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in eastern Nebraska that currently use the crime evidence analysis services of the state, Douglas County, and UNMC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That a select committee of the Legislature shall be designated as provided in this resolution 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.