

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 605

Introduced by Pirsch, 4.

Read first time January 23, 2013

Committee:

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to behavioral health; to provide for creation of
2 the Telehealth Behavioral Health Services Program; to
3 define terms; to provide duties; to require reporting;
4 and to state intent related to funding.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. For purposes of sections 1 to 4 of this act:

2 (1) Division means the Division of Behavioral Health of
3 the Department of Health and Human Services; and

4 (2) Program means the Telehealth Behavioral Health
5 Services Program created pursuant to section 2 of this act.

6 Sec. 2. On or before November 30, 2013, the division
7 shall create the Telehealth Behavioral Health Services Program to
8 ensure timely access to clinically appropriate behavioral health
9 services for youth in Nebraska juvenile justice facilities and
10 programs, juvenile detention centers, and out-of-home residential
11 placements and for youth receiving in-home services through the
12 Department of Health and Human Services. Behavioral health services
13 provided through the program shall be provided by board-certified
14 psychiatrists, advanced practice registered nurses practicing
15 psychiatric nursing, clinical psychologists, and mental health
16 practitioners licensed pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act.

17 Sec. 3. (1) The division shall contract with a sufficient
18 number of telehealth behavioral health service providers to ensure
19 seamless and timely service delivery of telehealth behavioral health
20 services under the program to youth described in section 2 of this
21 act. All contracts entered into by the division under this section
22 shall ensure that payments to behavioral health service providers
23 providing services under the program are based on the reasonable cost
24 of services, including direct and indirect costs.

25 (2) The division shall provide telehealth behavioral

1 health services providers access to the medical records of any youth
2 receiving services under the program prior to delivery of such
3 services.

4 (3) No later than January 1, 2015, the program shall be
5 fully implemented to provide telehealth behavioral health services to
6 all eligible youth described in section 2 of this act.

7 Sec. 4. For the years 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, the
8 division by November 30 shall report to the Judiciary Committee of
9 the Legislature on the implementation of sections 1 to 3 of this act.

10 Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature that any
11 funding required for the Telehealth Behavioral Health Services
12 Program come from the Commission on Public Advocacy Operations Cash
13 Fund created pursuant to section 29-3921.