

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 166

Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to better understand the scope and breadth of mental health education currently provided in Nebraska schools and to study the reasons mental health education is, or is not, taught in K-12 health classes. Mental health amongst youth is a growing concern, with more young people being diagnosed with mental illnesses every year. In order to carry out the purposes of this resolution, the study committee shall seek the assistance and input of mental and physical health care professionals, teachers and administrators from public schools, staff members of the Nebraska Department of Education, and mental health advocates within the community. The study committee shall:

(1) Obtain information regarding how many adolescents in Nebraska are currently diagnosed with a mental illness;

(2) Determine the state of mental health education in various schools and the capacity of schools to offer this type of curriculum;

(3) Understand the research on the potential effects of mental health education on students with mental health concerns and their peers, parents, and teachers;

(4) Determine the appropriate scope and sequence for mental health education;

(5) Develop a plan of action to increase mental health education; and

(6) Examine the training in teacher preparation programs related to mental health education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Education 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.