

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 196

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to review ways to eliminate or reduce the current waiting list for services that adults with developmental disabilities experience. Currently, over two thousand Nebraskans with developmental disabilities are past their stated date of need for developmental disability services and many other Nebraskans are at or approaching their date of need. Some individuals have waited as long as ten years to start receiving services. These services are vital to maintain physical and mental health and to learn skills fundamental to employment, socialization, and independence. Other states with similar long waiting lists for services have successfully created disability trust funds to fund the support services needed in order to offer each individual the full scope of opportunities in their life.

The study shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) An examination of the waiting list statistics for developmental disability services, including the demographics of the individuals on the waiting list and the length of time waiting for services;

(2) A review of current federal assistance for states and strategies to address long waiting lists for developmental disability services, including approaches other states have used to address long waiting lists for developmental disability services; and

(3) A review of best practices from other states to determine responses the states have taken to address waiting lists for developmental disability services with disability trust funds or any other method of funding.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.