

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 275

Introduced by Bolz, 29; McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine issues relating to the behavioral and mental health needs of children in educational settings.

1. The study will consider the intersection between educational needs and behavioral and mental health care needs. Policy issues the study will consider include, but are not limited to:

a. Needs identified by teachers, school social workers, school nurses, and other staff members in public schools for behavioral and mental health services in school settings;

b. Current staffing patterns for school nurses and social workers and other related school staff members;

c. Needs for additional data collection related to behavioral health needs in educational settings;

d. Existing school-based strategies for addressing behavioral and mental health needs for children, including best practices in other states, pilot strategies, and existing alternative programs and schools;

e. Relationships between graduation rates and behavioral and mental health needs of students;

f. Opportunities for improved coordination between educational settings and the Department of Health and Human Services, especially the behavioral health regions established under the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act;

g. Existing funding streams for behavioral and mental health services in schools; and

h. Other issues deemed appropriate by the Education and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature.

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

1. That the Education Committee and 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 committees shall upon the conclusion of the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.