

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 393

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Vargas, 7.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review juvenile justice involvement for youth who commit a status offense specified in subdivision (3) (b) of section 43-247. Status offenses include a range of behaviors prohibited by law for children, but not adults, including chronic absenteeism, running away from home, being uncontrollable in the home, engaging in behavior that injures or seriously endangers the morals or health of the youth or others, and possessing or consuming alcohol or tobacco. National juvenile justice best practices encourage policymakers to increase community-based interventions that address the underlying causes of status offenses and eliminate formal court interventions.

The interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) The number and type of status offenses cases filed across the state;
- (2) The outcomes for youth adjudicated for status offenses, including length of time on probation, recidivism, or other metrics to assess whether youth are transitioning to a productive adulthood;
- (3) Any outcomes not tracked, including educational attainment, behavioral and mental health improvements, skill development, and employment;
- (4) The amount of money the state commits to state systems to address status behaviors, including, but not limited to, the costs of formal court involvement, the cost to the educational system to address chronic absenteeism, and the cost of state-aid dedicated to community-based interventions for youth;
- (5) The variance of chronic absenteeism in our state across school districts, diversion programs focused on chronic absenteeism, and referrals to county attorneys for formal court intervention, including demographic

information and how chronic absenteeism may disproportionately affect communities of color and non-English learners;

(6) The programs addressing chronic absenteeism supported through community-based aid dollars, other community-based programs that address behaviors that lead to status offense filings, and the outcomes for youth resulting from all such programs;

(7) Any programs used by probation to address chronic absenteeism within probation districts and the outcomes for youth resulting from such programs;

(8) Best practices to improve youth and family engagement and positive youth outcomes resulting from collaborative plan meetings required pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) of section 79-209; and

(9) A survey of national best practices in addressing status offenses to identify necessary services and gaps in service delivery in this state.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.