

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 404

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the impact of the services provided to eligible recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program funds and the most effective way to utilize such funds to provide services and cash assistance to Nebraskans receiving aid from the aid to dependent children program while living in poverty.

The aid to dependent children program, which provides time-limited direct cash assistance to families with children in deep poverty, is paid for by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program funds. Over the last few decades, national data show that the number of families participating in the aid to dependent children program has dropped significantly but this does not mean there is a lack of need for such program, as the poverty data shows. Current participation in the aid to dependent children program is proportionately low in part because of administrative barriers, difficulty for participants to navigate a sanction-based program, a very low standard of need formula used for determining eligibility, and benefit levels which have not been updated in many years.

In 2020, more than ninety percent of Nebraskans who applied for the aid to dependent children program were denied. Nebraska is among the top five states with in number of denials for those applying to participate in the program. This study should focus on whether this trend can be reversed with use of existing funds like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program rainy day funds.

This study should also focus on what changes to law or policy could be made to ensure needy families receive necessary assistance from the aid to

dependent children program, such as adjustments in calculations for the aid to dependent children program's standard of need formula and maximum benefit levels or changes in how child support is considered for recipients of the Aid to Dependent Children program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.