

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 513**

Introduced by Howard, 9; Kolterman, 24.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine workforce issues within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Front-line professionals within juvenile probation and the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services have extremely challenging jobs. These professionals do what is necessary to respond to the urgent needs of children, youth, and families every day of the week and at all hours of the day and night. Such tasks include staffing the abuse and neglect hotline, conducting initial assessments, providing ongoing case management, and operating juvenile probation. A skilled and stable workforce of such professionals is key to successful outcomes for Nebraska's vulnerable children, youth, and families. This can be achieved when staff have manageable caseloads and workloads, when they receive high-quality training and education, and when turnover is minimized.

The study shall include:

(1) Examining whether there are adequate recruiting and retention efforts for front-line professionals within juvenile probation and the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services;

(2) Ascertaining whether the caseloads and workloads of such professionals are manageable and lead to successful outcomes;

(3) Determining whether statutes should be harmonized or amended to ensure clarity and consistency of caseload and workload requirements for caseworkers and juvenile probation officers; and

(4) Determining whether further efforts are needed to improve the professionalization and stability of the child welfare and juvenile justice workforce.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee 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.