

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 525

Introduced by Coash, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to investigate how Nebraska's current system for screening, assessing, and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect contributes to Nebraska's rates of out-of-home care that are twice that of the national average and to study how a differential response system to reports of child abuse and neglect could be implemented in Nebraska to safely reduce the number of children in out-of-home care and fulfill the family policy objectives prescribed in sections 43-532 to 43-534. The study may include, but is not limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The core elements essential to a successful differential response system, including the steps taken by other states to successfully implement differential response systems and barriers overcome by such states;

(2) How other states have identified and engaged necessary stakeholders, worked out timelines of implementation, used pilot projects, partnered with service providers and the larger community, and coordinated differential response systems with law enforcement and juvenile or family courts;

(3) The number and type of differential responses or tracks used and the services offered to families and children in each of the tracks in other states;

(4) Information on how other states have examined outcomes and outcome measures, continuously monitor quality of differential response system services, and conduct ongoing evaluation and oversight; and

(5) Nebraska's current model of child abuse and neglect reporting, screening, and investigation, including coordination with law enforcement and the use of structured decisionmaking, and data on how many reports are received, investigated, and assessed and the types of services offered to children and families and how the services are funded.

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

1. That the Judiciary and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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