

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 529

Introduced by Campbell, 25.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to provide for the review and assessment and the making of recommendations relating to the entry of children into the child welfare system. The issues addressed by the study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the process of child protection removals, including the utilization and interaction between the centralized hotline reporting system, law enforcement, the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, child advocacy centers, and the courts;

(2) An analysis of the data available regarding the relationship between poverty, including housing, financial support, and access to health care, and child welfare placement in Nebraska compared to states with lower poverty-related child welfare placements;

(3) An examination of the availability and need for family support and family preservation services to assist families with addressing issues early to prevent involvement with the child welfare system;

(4) A review of the child welfare safety assessment process, including structured decision making, to assess training, implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of current practices;

(5) An analysis of the correlation between mental health treatment for children and custody relinquishment;

(6) A review of family group conferencing for effectiveness and the level of utilization;

(7) An examination of differential response programs and the resources and implementation requirements needed to effect successful change; and

(8) An analysis of national and state data to understand how statistics are used to compare performance in child welfare systems.

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