

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 546

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Campbell, 25; Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, states will play a large role in the implementation of the major provisions of federal health care reform, including expanding medicaid eligibility, establishing health insurance exchanges, regulating private insurance, and developing coordinated eligibility and enrollment systems and processes. Reported fiscal impacts of the act on aggregate and individual state budgets have varied widely. While all estimates show some new costs for states associated with the large expansion of medicaid, the act also creates new savings and revenue for all states, along with opportunities for states to achieve further, often longer-term state savings. It is fiscally responsible to include projections of state spending and savings as a result of the act in future budgets.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine the potential impact of implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the state budget in upcoming years. The interim study will examine health care financing and delivery options available through the act and prepare for new state funding obligations, as well as state savings or increased revenue that will occur as a result of the act.

Issues considered by the committee may include, but shall not be limited to:

(1) A review of existing funding obligations in state health safety net programs, the need for which will become obsolete once access to affordable health care and health insurance has been made available to all Nebraskans through various provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

(2) An evaluation of federal grants and other funding opportunities to support the implementation of the act and various payment and service delivery reforms therein;

(3) An examination of the budgetary impact of the medicaid eligibility expansion and changes to the state children's health insurance program;

(4) A review of estimated costs to the state associated with the operation of a potential health insurance exchange; and

(5) An examination of the budgetary impact of the act on state employee health insurance and coverage.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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 on or before December 31, 2012.