

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 569

Introduced by Fulton, 29.

PURPOSE: The Legislature holds important interests in improving health care for employees who suffer work-related injuries, reducing medical costs, and ensuring best practices with regard to the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court. Utilization and treatment guidelines provide a framework for consistent and reliable decisionmaking regarding the diagnosis, management, and treatment of an injury or illness and are not designed to serve as absolute prescriptions for care or to replace the judgment of individual healthcare practitioners.

At least twenty-three states have adopted utilization and treatment guidelines for workers' compensation cases using a variety of approaches, including the establishment of state specific guidelines to define treatment standards and ranges for specific injuries or disabilities and the adoption of external guidelines, including the Work Loss Data Institute's Official Disability Guidelines and Treatment in Workers' Compensation and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Practice Guidelines. It appears that the states that have experienced the greatest success with utilization and treatment guidelines have invested in a medical director to oversee and manage the development and implementation of the guidelines and to promote acceptance of the guidelines by the medical community. The study committee should conduct a

study regarding the implementation of utilization and treatment guidelines in cases before the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court.

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

1. That the Business and Labor 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.