

LEGISLATIVE BILL 641

Approved by the Governor May 29, 2019

Introduced by McDonnell, 5; Vargas, 7; Brewer, 43; Quick, 35; Friesen, 34.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to health and human services; to amend section 71-7611, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to define 211 Information and Referral Network; to provide for grants; to create a fund; to change provisions relating to transfers to and from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund; to state intent; and to repeal the original section.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section, 211 Information and Referral Network means a statewide information and referral network providing information to the public regarding disaster and emergency response and health and human services provided by public and private entities throughout the state.

(2) The Public Service Commission shall award a grant annually to a 211 Information and Referral Network which submits an application and meets the requirements of this section. The amount of each grant shall be three hundred thousand dollars.

(3) To be eligible for a grant, the 211 Information and Referral Network shall update the information and referral services on the network at least annually, shall geographically index the services to provide information on a county-by-county basis, and shall be accredited as meeting the standards for service delivery and quality by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems or a similar organization approved by the commission.

(4) The grant may be used to establish a web site which includes links to providers of health and human services, the name, address, and telephone number of any organization listed on the web site, a description of the type of services provided by the organization, and other information to educate the public about the health and human services available on a geographic basis. The grant may also be used to provide access to the network twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, through telephone access and web site access.

(5) There is hereby created the 211 Cash Fund. The fund shall be used solely for the purpose of providing grants pursuant to this section and associated administrative costs. All money received by the Public Service Commission for such grants shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to such fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 2. Section 71-7611, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-7611 (1) The Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund is created. The State Treasurer shall transfer (a) sixty million three hundred thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2014, (b) sixty million three hundred fifty thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2015, (c) sixty million three hundred fifty thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2016, (d) sixty million seven hundred thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2017, (e) five hundred thousand dollars on or before May 15, 2018, (f) sixty-one million six hundred thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2018, (g) sixty-one million six ~~three~~ hundred fifty thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2019, ~~and~~ (h) sixty million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2020, and (i) sixty million four hundred fifty thousand dollars on or before every July 15 thereafter from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund and the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund, except that such amount shall be reduced by the amount of the unobligated balance in the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund at the time the transfer is made. The state investment officer shall advise the State Treasurer on the amounts to be transferred first from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund until the fund balance is depleted and from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund thereafter in order to sustain such transfers in perpetuity. The state investment officer shall report electronically to the Legislature on or before October 1 of every even-numbered year on the sustainability of such transfers. The Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund shall also include money received pursuant to section 77-2602. Except as otherwise provided by law, no more than the amounts specified in this subsection may be appropriated or transferred from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund in any fiscal year.

The State Treasurer shall transfer ten million dollars from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund to the General Fund on June 28, 2018, and June 28, 2019.

Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this section, it is the intent of the Legislature that no additional programs are funded through the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund until funding for all programs with an appropriation from the fund during FY2012-13 are restored to their FY2012-13 levels.

(2) Any money in the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the

Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(3) The University of Nebraska and postsecondary educational institutions having colleges of medicine in Nebraska and their affiliated research hospitals in Nebraska, as a condition of receiving any funds appropriated or transferred from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund, shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of sexual orientation.

(4) The State Treasurer shall transfer fifty thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2016, from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska Medical Center. It is the intent of the Legislature that these funds be used by the College of Public Health for workforce training.

(5) It is the intent of the Legislature that the cost of the staff and operating costs necessary to carry out the changes made by Laws 2018, LB439, and not covered by fees or federal funds shall be funded from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

(6) It is the intent of the Legislature to fund the grants to be awarded pursuant to section 1 of this act with the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for FY2019-20 and FY2020-21.

Sec. 3. Original section 71-7611, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.