

AMENDMENTS TO LB927

Introduced by Health and Human Services.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. For purposes of providing training for individuals
4 involved in the child welfare system, the Department of Health and Human
5 Services shall develop a baseline of curriculum and training materials
6 related to suicide awareness and prevention in consultation with
7 statewide and national organizations and professionals with expertise in
8 behavioral and mental health and suicide prevention, including, but not
9 limited to, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition and the
10 Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska. All such suicide
11 awareness and prevention training shall incorporate evidence-based
12 practices and may include, but not be limited to, (1) identification of
13 early warning signs and symptoms of behavioral and mental health issues
14 for youth in the child welfare system and (2) appropriate and effective
15 responses for behavioral and mental health issues and trauma-informed
16 care.

17 Sec. 2. All staff involved in the child welfare system of the
18 Department of Health and Human Services that provide direct services to
19 children or families or interact directly with children or families, and
20 any other appropriate personnel as determined by the Division of Children
21 and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, shall
22 have training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training shall
23 include at least ninety minutes of behavioral and mental health training
24 with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention prior to any independent
25 contact with youth and families and annually thereafter. Such training
26 shall be provided within the framework of existing training programs
27 offered by the department.

1 Sec. 3. Section 71-1904, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 71-1904 (1) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and
4 regulations pursuant to sections 71-1901 to 71-1906.01 for (a) the proper
5 care and protection of children by licensees under such sections, (b) the
6 issuance, suspension, and revocation of licenses to provide foster care,
7 (c) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of probationary licenses to
8 provide foster care, (d) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of
9 provisional licenses to provide foster care, (e) the provision of
10 training in foster care, which training shall be directly related to the
11 skills necessary to care for children in need of out-of-home care,
12 including, but not limited to, abused, neglected, dependent, and
13 delinquent children, and (f) the proper administration of sections
14 71-1901 to 71-1906.01.

15 (2) The department may issue a waiver for any licensing standard not
16 related to children's safety for a relative home that is pursuing
17 licensure. Such waivers shall be granted on a case-by-case basis upon
18 assessment by the department based upon the best interests of the child.
19 A relative home that receives a waiver pursuant to this subsection shall
20 be considered fully licensed for purposes of federal reimbursement under
21 the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act
22 of 2008, Public Law 110-351.

23 (3) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
24 establishing new foster home licensing requirements that ensure
25 children's safety, health, and well-being but minimize the use of
26 licensing mandates for nonsafety issues. Such rules and regulations shall
27 provide alternatives to address nonsafety issues regarding housing and
28 provide assistance to families in overcoming licensing barriers,
29 especially in child-specific relative and kinship placements, to maximize
30 appropriate reimbursement under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security
31 Act, as amended, including expanding the use of kinship guardianship

1 assistance payments under 42 U.S.C. 673(d), as such act and section
2 existed on January 1, 2013.

3 (4) The department shall include suicide awareness and prevention
4 training meeting the requirements of section 1 of this act for initial
5 licensure and renewal of licensure pursuant to sections 71-1901 to
6 71-1906.01.

7 Sec. 4. Section 71-1924, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
8 2022, is amended to read:

9 71-1924 Sections 71-1924 to 71-1951 and section 5 of this act shall
10 be known and may be cited as the Children's Residential Facilities and
11 Placing Licensure Act.

12 Sec. 5. The department shall establish standardized suicide
13 awareness and prevention training requirements for all employees of a
14 child-placing agency prior to any independent contact with youth and
15 families. Such training shall incorporate a baseline of curriculum
16 materials described in section 1 of this act while also allowing a child-
17 placing agency to incorporate training elements that meet the specific
18 needs of the individual agency. The department may approve the existing
19 curriculum of a child-placing agency if such curriculum meets the
20 baseline of curriculum pursuant to section 1 of this act.

21 Sec. 6. This act shall become operative on October 1, 2024.

22 Sec. 7. Original section 71-1904, Reissue Revised Statutes of
23 Nebraska, and section 71-1924, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
24 2022, are repealed.