

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 405

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the process the Department of Health and Human Services uses in selecting a provider to service a foster home and the similarities and differences between agency supported foster homes, relative homes, and kinship homes.

Historically, the state has defined agency supported foster care and pre-adoptive care services to mean agency supported foster homes, relative homes, and kinship homes despite significant differences between the categories including resource needs, initial and ongoing training and licensing requirements, initial and ongoing staff training requirements, support for both the home and the child, transportation, pre-adoption support services, and other matters that effect foster children. The additional responsibility placed on other family members in relative homes and kinship homes often substantially impacts the other family members' capacity to welcome additional children into their homes along with other issues that impact all involved.

The demands on the child welfare provider community differ between the placement services for agency supported foster homes, relative homes, and kinship homes relating to the requirements and expectations outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the process used to select a provider to service a foster home can be disruptive to foster children and confusing to the provider community.

The study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The differences between agency-supported foster homes, relative homes, and kinship homes and the impact those differences have on foster children,

families, and providers;

(2) The financial impact to both providers and the Department of Health and Human Services of serving agency-supported foster homes, relative homes, and kinship homes;

(3) The difference in requirements and expectations the Department of Health and Human Services has of providers for agency-supported foster homes, relative homes, and kinship homes; and

(4) The process the Department of Health and Human Services uses in selecting a provider to support relative homes and kinship homes.

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