

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 410

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of and how to best direct funding and appropriations towards sustaining a strong health care workforce in Nebraska, especially in rural communities.

The health care industry plays a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of Nebraska residents and the vitality of Nebraska communities. Hospitals across Nebraska face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified health care professionals, including, but not limited to, physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, and support staff. The shortage of health care workers poses a threat to the quality and accessibility of health care services provided to Nebraskans, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Addressing these workforce challenges requires a collaborative and multi-faceted approach involving health care organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and other stakeholders. It is imperative for the Legislature to recognize and support efforts to mitigate the impact of these challenges and ensure the continued provision of high-quality health care services to all Nebraskans.

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

(1) The funding streams and potential new sources of money for sustaining the health care workforce;

(2) Grants and funding opportunities to assist in training costs for the health care workforce;

(3) Current data on the significant workforce challenges facing hospitals and health care facilities across the state and the impact of housing and child

care shortages on the health care industry;

(4) Partnerships between health care organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to address such challenges and develop innovative solutions;

(5) Programs and initiatives aimed at recruiting and retaining health care professionals, especially in rural and underserved areas;

(6) Funding and resources for health care workforce development programs, scholarships, loan repayment programs, and other incentives to attract and retain health care professionals in Nebraska;

(7) Collaborations between government agencies, health care organizations, and educational institutions for identifying barriers to workforce development and implementing strategies to overcome workforce challenges;

(8) Relevant stakeholders to prioritize the expansion of health care education and training programs, with a focus on meeting the evolving needs of Nebraska's health care employees; and

(9) The progress of efforts to address hospital workforce challenges and exploring additional legislative measures as needed to support such efforts.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.