

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 211

Introduced by Ballard, 21.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the statewide availability of assisted-living memory care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia and the accessibility of this type of care for medicaid beneficiaries.

In the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, an individual may have memory or cognitive difficulties that put the individual's safety at risk, although the individual may be physically healthy. At this point in the disease process, an individual does not need twenty-four-hour nursing care; however, especially if there is no live-in caregiver, an individual needs a safe and secure environment with activities, social interaction, and guidance to keep active and engaged in daily living.

The increased incidence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias combined with the inability or unavailability of family caregivers to provide twenty-four-hour supervision has created a growing demand for assisted-living memory care.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there are an estimated thirty-three thousand Nebraskans currently living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, and by 2025, the number of Nebraskans will likely increase to forty thousand Nebraskans.

This interim study shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) Identifying the availability of assisted-living memory care in Nebraska and the accessibility of this type of care to Nebraskans who qualify for the aged and disabled medicaid waiver; and

(2) Examining the cost of providing assisted-living memory care and the gap between the cost of care and the medicaid waiver rate.

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

1. That the Health and Human Service 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.