

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 443

Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine assisted-living facility reimbursement rates at different facilities throughout Nebraska.

Assisted-living facilities provide crucial care to members of the community as they age, from those with minor health risks to those with severe memory loss. Nebraska currently provides different medicaid reimbursement rates based on a facility's urban or rural location. Presently, the rural reimbursement rate is higher than the urban reimbursement rate due to the higher staffing shortages in rural communities. However, the reimbursement rate for memory-care facilities and assisted-living facilities, regardless of location, remains the same, despite memory-care facilities offering more secure and constant care. Further study is required for how memory-care reimbursement rates may be structured differently, based on the type of care provided and the staffing services required.

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

(1) How reimbursement rates for assisted-living facilities in rural and urban communities compare;

(2) What reimbursement rates for memory-care facilities would be comparable to the rates for assisted-living facilities, based on percentage of reimbursement;

(3) The benefits provided to assisted-living facility residents and their families, memory-care facility residents and their families, assisted-living facilities, and memory-care facilities, in both urban and rural communities, when reimbursement rates are adjusted;

(4) The benefits and further services insurance companies are able to provide when reimbursement rates differ between memory-care facilities and assisted-living facilities; and

(5) The prevalence of medicaid waiver assisted-living services across Nebraska specific to memory care.

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.