

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 651**

Introduced by Christensen, 44.

Read first time January 19, 2011

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to foster care; to amend section 43-1318, Reissue
- 2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to authorize a program
- 3 audit and survey of the foster care system; and to repeal
- 4 the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 43-1318, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           43-1318 Sections 43-1301 to 43-1318 and section 2 of this  
4 act shall be known and may be cited as the Foster Care Review Act.

5           Sec. 2. The state board shall bid out a program audit and  
6 survey regarding foster care placements to a third-party firm. Such  
7 firm shall not have any other contract with the Department of Health  
8 and Human Services that provides child welfare services in Nebraska.  
9 The program audit and survey shall be done by the same firm for five  
10 fiscal years beginning with 2011-12, and a report of the annual  
11 findings shall be presented to the state board by July 1, 2012, and  
12 each July 1 thereafter through 2016. The state board shall oversee  
13 the program audit and survey which shall be funded with  
14 administrative funds from the Department of Health and Human  
15 Services. For each year, the program audit shall be a random sampling  
16 of eight hundred foster care placements and of all foster care  
17 placements that have been in foster care for over three years. The  
18 program audit shall provide information regarding whether the  
19 statutes and rules and regulations regarding foster care and foster  
20 care placements are being followed and what improvements need to be  
21 made. The same firm shall conduct a survey of foster parents, both  
22 current and those who have left the foster care system in the  
23 previous three years, state caseworkers and contracted case workers,  
24 guardians ad litem, and court appointed special advocate volunteers  
25 regarding experiences with the foster care system to confirm and

1 identify issues and problems within the foster care system and other  
2 information useful to analyze and improve foster care.

3                   Sec. 3. Original section 43-1318, Reissue Revised  
4 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.