

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 517

Introduced by Haar, 21.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study ways to improve the quality and availability of interpreter services for Nebraskans who are deaf or hard of hearing. The study committee shall coordinate with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to work with interested stakeholders to identify the areas of concern, conduct necessary research, and explore various ways to address quality and availability issues. The study should:

(1) Examine why there is a shortage of qualified, licensed interpreters in the State of Nebraska;

(2) Examine complaints and concerns from the deaf and hard of hearing community about the proficiency and competency of interpreters in both educational settings and community settings;

(3) Find opportunities to share and address competency and proficiency issues of sign language interpreters among concerned stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Nebraska educational community, the deaf and hard of hearing community, American Sign Language interpreters, and health care providers; and

(4) Include any other issues that the study committee deems relevant.

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