

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB148

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 148 is the result of LR 533, an interim study examining issues surrounding enrollment of former foster youth in Medicaid. Under Section 2004 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), foster youth who age out of the foster care system in Nebraska without reunification with their families or adoption are eligible for Medicaid coverage until age 26. This mirrors the provision in the PPACA allowing young adults to stay on their parents' insurance plan until age 26.

Currently, former foster youth who age out of foster care in other states and subsequently move to Nebraska are ineligible for this health coverage. LB 148 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a state plan amendment or waiver to provide coverage for these youth. The bill also requires the Department to streamline some of their procedures related to its current former foster youth coverage. These include implementing the federal self-attestation of foster care status.

LB 148 also contains reporting requirements regarding the Department's outreach efforts to potentially eligible youth and the number of youth enrolled in this Medicaid category.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Sue Crawford