



**Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 551**

Hearing Date: February 11, 2005
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Jensen)
Title: Change provisions relating to behavioral health services

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senator Jensen, Byars, Cunningham, Erdman, Johnson and Howard
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Stuthman

Proponents:

Senator Jensen
Eric Evans
Richard Deliberty
Ron Namuth
J. Rock Johnson

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc.
Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Nebraska Recovery Network
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes: LB 551 relates to the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act (act). The bill amends section 71-815 to require that at least three members appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services be consumers of substance abuse services (sec. 2). The bill amends section 71-816 to require that at least three members appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services be consumers of problem gambling or addiction services (sec. 3).

The bill amends section 71-813 to require that at least two members appointed to the State Behavioral Health Council from each such advisory committee and from the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services be consumers (sec. 1).

The bill amends section 71-818 to expand the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission of the Legislature from 20 members to 25 (sec. 4).

Explanation of amendments, if any: The committee amendment (AM 0695) adds provisions from LB 618 and LB 534, and adds an emergency clause.

It requires the Division of Behavioral Health Services (division), in consultation with regional behavioral health authorities, to establish and maintain a data and information system for all persons receiving state-funded behavioral health services under the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act. Information maintained by the division must include, but is not limited to, (a) the number of persons receiving regional center services; (b) the number of persons ordered by a mental health board to receive inpatient or outpatient treatment and receiving regional center services; (c) the number of persons ordered by a mental health board to receive inpatient or outpatient treatment and receiving community-based services; (d) the number of persons voluntarily admitted to a regional center and receiving regional center services; (e) the number of persons waiting to receive regional center services; (f) the number of persons waiting to be transferred from a regional center to community based services or other regional center services; (g) the number of persons discharged from a regional center who are receiving community-based services or other regional center services; and (h) the number of persons admitted to behavioral health crisis centers. Regional behavioral health authorities are required to provide necessary information as requested by the division for such purpose. The division is required to submit quarterly reports of such information to the Governor and the Legislature beginning July 1, 2005.

The division is required to contract with one or more national entities to review current medicaid funding for behavioral health services. A report of recommendations to increase such funding for such services is required by December 1, 2005.

The amendment includes advanced practice registered nurses with a psychiatric or mental health specialty within the definition of “mental health professional” under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act (section 71-906).

Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson