



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006
Revised Committee Statement
LB 994

Hearing Date: January 19, 2006
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Health and Human Services Committee: Jensen, Chairperson; Byars, Cunningham, Erdman, Howard, Johnson, Stuthman)
Title: Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Health and Human Services System

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

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

Vote Results:

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

Proponents:

Senator Jensen
Christine Peterson
David O’Doherty

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Nebraska Dental Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes: LB 994 is the annual “cleanup bill” requested by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. The bill contains the emergency clause for portions of the bill and makes the following changes:

Transfers to the Department of HHS Finance and Support (sections 1-12, 14-24, 29, and 33-37).

The bill transfers personnel and functions of the Division of Home and Community-Based Services for Aged Adults and Children with Disabilities from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support (HHS F&S), including various activities relating to:

1. Adult Protective Services Act (sections 1-3)
2. Medically handicapped children (sections 4, 5)
4. Early Intervention Act (sections 6-11)
5. Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (section 12)
6. Social services (sections 14-16)
7. Genetically Handicapped Persons Act (sections 17-19)
8. Disabled Persons and Family Support Act (sections 20-21)
9. Lifespan Respite Services Program (sections 22-24)

The bill adds new provisions relating to the transfer of personnel, property, contracts, rules and regulations, etc. from HHS to HHS F&S (sections 34-37). Provisions relating to such transfers become operative on July 1, 2006 with the emergency clause.

The bill updates references to federal law in statutes relating to the state medical assistance (Medicaid) program (section 13).

The bill expands the membership of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery to include a veterinary technician (section 25).

The bill changes the name of the Division of Dental Health to the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry and changes a title from chief of the division to Dental Health Director (sections 26-28).

The bill makes a technical change to the genetic newborn screening program (section 29).

The bill changes provisions relating to the release of health information (sections 30-32). The bill eliminates provisions prohibiting the re-release of confidential patient information to out-of-state cancer registries. The bill permits the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure (department) to release case-specific and patient-identifying information to persons or entities reporting such information to the department. The information may be released for the purpose of confirming the accuracy of data provided and to coordinate information sources. The bill changes provisions relating to the release of data to local public health departments.

The bill adds the Director of the Division of Veterans Homes to the list of exempt, appointed positions within the Department of Health and Human Services (section 33).

The bill has an operative date of July 1, 2006 for sections 1-12, 14-24, 34-37, and 40, with an emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson