

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 891**

Introduced by Combs, 32; Brown, 6; Price, 26

Read first time January 5, 2006

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to adopt the
- 2 Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act; and to declare
- 3 an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act. This act terminates  
3 on December 31, 2006.

4           Sec. 2. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task  
5 Force is created and shall consist of eighteen members as follows:

6           (1) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services  
7 Committee of the Legislature or his or her designated  
8 representative;

9           (2) A member of the Legislature appointed by the  
10 Executive Board of the Legislative Council;

11           (3) A disease prevention and health promotion  
12 administrator designated by the Director of Health and Human  
13 Services;

14           (4) The state hepatitis coordinator designated by the  
15 Director of Health and Human Services;

16           (5) A state surveillance officer designated by the  
17 Director of Health and Human Services;

18           (6) A behavioral health specialist designated by the  
19 Director of Correctional Services;

20           (7) A medical provider designated by the Director of  
21 Correctional Services;

22           (8) A representative of the State Department of Education  
23 designated by the Commissioner of Education;

24           (9) A representative of the Department of Veterans'  
25 Affairs designated by the Director of Veterans' Affairs; and

- 1           (10) Nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:  
2           (a) A representative of a public health association;  
3           (b) A representative of a rural health association;  
4           (c) A registered nurse licensed to practice in Nebraska;  
5           (d) A pharmacist licensed to practice in Nebraska;  
6           (e) A primary care physician licensed to practice in  
7 Nebraska;  
8           (f) A primary care nurse practitioner licensed to  
9 practice in Nebraska;  
10           (g) A physician assistant licensed to practice in  
11 Nebraska;  
12           (h) A laboratory professional; and  
13           (i) A resident of Nebraska affected by hepatitis C.

14           Sec. 3. (1) The appointed members of the Hepatitis C  
15 Education and Prevention Task Force shall be appointed on or  
16 before May 1, 2006. The chairperson of the Health and Human  
17 Services Committee of the Legislature or his or her designated  
18 representative shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

19           (2) The Health and Human Services Committee of the  
20 Legislature shall provide research and administrative support for  
21 the task force. For budgetary purposes only, the task force shall  
22 be within the Legislative Council.

23           Sec. 4. (1) The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task  
24 Force shall meet at the call of the chairperson of the task force.

25           (2) Members shall not receive compensation for service on

1 the task force but may be reimbursed for expenses as provided in  
2 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

3           Sec. 5. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task  
4 Force shall develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the  
5 increasing epidemic of hepatitis C in Nebraska. The plan shall  
6 include, but not be limited to:

7                   (1) Development of a proposal to promote public awareness  
8 and education about the epidemic of hepatitis C;

9                   (2) Development of educational opportunities targeting  
10 health care professionals regarding the epidemic of hepatitis C;

11                   (3) Development of collaborative strategies among state  
12 agencies to address the needs of persons at risk for or affected by  
13 the epidemic of hepatitis C; and

14                   (4) Evaluation of funding sources available to address  
15 the epidemic of hepatitis C.

16           Sec. 6. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task  
17 Force shall report on its activities and recommendations for  
18 policies and potential legislation to the Governor and to the  
19 Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on or before  
20 December 31, 2006.

21           Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
22 when passed and approved according to law.