

LEGISLATIVE BILL 264

Approved by the Governor March 22, 2005

Introduced by Howard, 9; Brown, 6; Kruse, 13; Price, 26; Stuhr, 24;
Aguilar, 35

AN ACT relating to social services; to amend sections 68-1202, 68-1207, and 68-1207.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for secondary prevention services; to provide duties for the Director of Health and Human Services relating to caseloads; to change provisions relating to reports; and to repeal the original sections. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 68-1202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

68-1202. Social services may be provided on behalf of recipients with payments for such social services made directly to vendors. Social services shall include those mandatory and optional services to former, present, or potential social services recipients provided for under the federal Social Security Act, as amended such act existed on the effective date of this act, and described by the State of Nebraska in the approved State Plan for Services. Such services may include, but shall not be limited to, foster care for children, child care, family planning, treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction, treatment for persons with mental retardation, health-related services, protective services for children, homemaker services, employment services, foster care for adults, protective services for adults, transportation services, home management and other functional education services, housing improvement services, legal services, adult day services, home delivered or congregate meals, and educational services, and secondary prevention services, including, but not limited to, home visitation, child screening and early intervention, and parenting education programs.

Sec. 2. Section 68-1207, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

68-1207. The Director of Health and Human Services shall supervise all public child welfare services as described by law. The director shall establish and maintain caseloads to carry out child welfare services which provide for adequate, timely, and indepth investigations and services to children and families. In establishing the standards for such caseloads, the director shall (1) include the workload factors that may differ due to geographic responsibilities, office location, and the travel required to provide a timely response in the investigation of abuse and neglect, the protection of children, and the provision of services to children and families in a uniform and consistent statewide manner and (2) consider workload standards recommended by national child welfare organizations and factors related to the attainment of such standards. The director shall consult with the appropriate employee representative in establishing such standards.

To carry out the provisions of this section, the Legislature shall provide funds for additional staff.

Sec. 3. Section 68-1207.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

68-1207.01. ~~In each even-numbered year, the~~ The Director of Health and Human Services shall annually provide a report to the Legislature and Governor outlining the caseloads of child protective services, the factors considered in their establishment, and the fiscal resources necessary for their maintenance. Such report shall include:

(1) A a comparison of caseloads established by the director with the workload standards recommended by national child welfare organizations along with the amount of fiscal resources necessary to maintain such caseloads in Nebraska;

(2) (a) The number of child welfare services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and child welfare services workers, providing services directly to children and families, who are under contract with the State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the State of Nebraska and (b) statistics on the average length of employment in such positions, statewide and by health and human services area;

(3) (a) The average caseload of child welfare services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and child welfare services workers, providing services directly to children and families, who are under contract with the State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the State of Nebraska and (b) the outcomes of such cases,

including the number of children reunited with their families, children adopted, children in guardianships, placement of children with relatives, and other permanent resolutions established, statewide and by health and human services area; and

(4) The average cost of training child welfare services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and child welfare services workers, providing services directly to children and families, who are under contract with the State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the State of Nebraska, statewide and by health and human services area.

Sec. 4. Original sections 68-1202, 68-1207, and 68-1207.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.