

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 292

Introduced by Adams, 24.

PURPOSE: To review Nebraska's current landscape of support for families with children age birth to five years who are at risk of failure in school and to advise on ways in which Nebraska can further support families and the positive development of children in their first five years.

Decades of scientific research demonstrate that the first five years in a child's life is the most crucial time for brain development. What happens in the first five years can set children on a trajectory of success or failure both in school and later in life. Guided by the principles that (1) learning begins at birth, (2) parents are a child's first and best teacher, (3) quality environments make a difference, (4) lack of quality environments can actually be harmful, and (5) a significant number of children arrive at kindergarten ill-prepared to learn, this interim study shall examine Nebraska's current investment in the first five years of a child's life and recommend additional support that will continue to ensure Nebraska's children have the best start in life.

The issues to be addressed by this study shall include the following:

(1) Identify the strengths and gaps in quality services for at-risk children age birth to five years;

(2) Identify the status of current funding invested in at-risk children age birth to five years and potential funding sources that could ensure full funding of age birth to five years services, quality support, and accountability;

(3) An analysis of other states' funding in early childhood; and

(4) Other issues as deemed pertinent by the committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall designate two members of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and two members of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature to participate in this study with the Education Committee of the Legislature.

3. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature for the introduction of legislation in 2009.