

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 247

Introduced by Dubas, 34.

Read first time January 14, 2009

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to health and human services; to state
2 findings; to define a term; to require accreditation of
3 the Division of Children and Family Services as provided;
4 to require a plan; and to provide for appropriation of
5 funds.

6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

2 (a) The enactment of Laws 2008, LB 157, led to the
3 abandonment of thirty Nebraska children in hospitals throughout the
4 State of Nebraska;

5 (b) The standards set by the Council on Accreditation for
6 Children and Family Services, Inc., are nationally recognized as
7 the best practices for protecting and providing services to abused
8 and neglected children; and

9 (c) Achieving and maintaining these standards requires a
10 solid commitment from the legislative and executive branches of
11 government.

12 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the
13 resources for the Division of Children and Family Services of the
14 Department of Health and Human Services to meet uniform standards
15 for child protection and for the necessary, appropriate, and timely
16 services for the children in the care of the state.

17 (3) The purpose of sections 1 to 4 of this act is
18 to ensure that the division receives the resources necessary
19 and is held accountable for requesting and using those resources
20 efficiently and effectively so that it may perform child protection
21 duties in addition to providing appropriate and timely services to
22 children and their families in the child welfare system.

23 Sec. 2. For purposes of sections 1 to 4 of this act,
24 child means any person who has not reached the age of majority.

25 Sec. 3. (1) The Division of Children and Families of the

1 Department of Health and Human Services shall become accredited by
2 the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children,
3 Inc., on or before December 1, 2010.

4 (2) The division shall develop a plan to achieve
5 accreditation by the council on or before such date. The plan shall
6 contain (a) inputs, including staffing requirements, a timetable
7 for achieving those requirements, projected budgets for achieving
8 those requirements, and any other costs associated with achieving
9 accreditation and (b) outcomes, including an assessment based on
10 statistical and other evidence, of the impact of accreditation on
11 the number of abused and neglected children, the nature of their
12 abuse and neglect, and the relationships between such children and
13 their families.

14 (3) The plan shall be submitted on or before December
15 1, 2009, to the Governor, the Speaker of the Legislature, and to
16 the chairpersons of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature, the
17 Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, the Health and Human
18 Services Committee of the Legislature, and the Judiciary Committee
19 of the Legislature and placed on file with the Clerk of the
20 Legislature.

21 Sec. 4. The Legislature shall appropriate funds for the
22 expenses associated with achieving the purposes of sections 1 to 3
23 of this act.