

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB690

Hearing Date: Thursday January 23, 2014
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: Create the Aging Nebraskans Task Force and require a grant application

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Krist, Howard, Gloor, Crawford, Cook, Campbell
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 1 Senator Watermeier

Proponents:	Representing:
Senator Kate Bolz	District 29
Mark Intermill	AARP
June Pederson	Nebraska Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Michaela L. Valentine	Home Instead Senior Care, Inc
James Summerfelt	Visiting Nurse Association
Nick Fuastman	Nebraska Nursing Facility Association, Assisted Living Association
Kent Rogert	Leading Age Nebraska
Lana Wood	First Care Home Health, NAHCHA

Opponents: **Representing:**

Neutral: **Representing:**

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The purpose of the bill is to prepare for the challenges associated with Nebraska's aging population through the creation of The Aging Nebraskans Task Force.

Section 1 requires (1) the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for a grant under the State Balancing Incentive Payments Program not later than September 1, 2014, and to use the funds from that grant to develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of home and community-based long-term care services. (2) The department shall report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on the status of the grant application on or before December 1, 2014.

Section 2 (1) creates The Aging Nebraskans Task Force (the task force), whose purpose is to develop and facilitate implementation of a statewide strategic plan for addressing the needs of the aging population of Nebraskans and to provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public, and private stakeholders in long-term care programs.

(2) The task force shall consist of nine members representing the legislative, judicial and executive branches of

government. The task force's five-member executive committee shall consist of (a) the chief executive officer of the department or his or her designee, (b) the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court or his or her designee, (c) the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, and (d) a member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and a member of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The other four members of the task force shall represent stakeholders in the long-term care system and be appointed by the executive committee through an application and selection process. (3) The members of the executive committee shall represent their own branch of government, shall not participate in actions that could be deemed to improperly exercise the duties and prerogatives of another branch or improperly delegate powers and duties of one branch to another, and shall cooperatively advise the entire task force regarding the interaction among the three branches related to long-term care programs and services. (4) The task force shall establish effective community collaboration for informed decision making among a number of organizations and stakeholders that supports the provisions of effective and efficient long-term care services. (5) The task force shall create a statewide strategic plan for long-term care considering, but not limited to: (a) long-term services and support that enable independent living; (b) provision of financial leadership to support sound fiscal management as demand for long-term care services continues to grow in Nebraska; (c) expedited creation of workforce development and training programs related to Nebraska's growing aging population (d) a system-wide budgetary evaluation by a national expert; (e) identification of gaps in the service delivery system that contribute to inefficiency and ineffectiveness of delivery; and (f) development of an evaluation process for the quality of long-term services and support.

Section 3 requires the task force provide a report of recommendations for the statewide strategic plan described in section 2 on or before December 15, 2014 to the Legislature.

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

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment provides that the Aging Task Force terminates on June 30, 2016 unless extended by the Legislature.

Additionally, the amendment clarifies the designation of members of the Aging Task Force as voting and non-voting members to address separation of powers between the Legislative, Judicial and Executive branches of government.

The Legislative members of the Task Force executive committee, including the members from the Health and Human Services Committee, the Appropriations Committee and the member assigned by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be voting members. The chief executive of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or their designees, shall be nonvoting ex officio members of the executive committee of the task force.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson