

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 257

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Bolz, 29; Campbell, 25; Conrad, 46; Cook, 13; Harms, 48; Harr, 8; McGill, 26; Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the early childhood learning and development system across the state to determine how to make the current system more effective in preparing children to succeed in school and later in life. Science shows that meeting a child's cognitive, emotional, and social needs in his or her first five years, during the period of rapid brain growth, is imperative for the success of the child, and provides the state a greater return on its investment than if made at any other time in a person's life.

Study issues to be considered may include, but shall not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Implementation, support, monitoring, and evaluation of a quality rating and improvement system in Nebraska;

(2) How a statewide kindergarten assessment system can support the alignment and coordination of early learning and development standards and practices across the state and build on the current and future knowledge and skills of young children;

(3) Barriers posed by family income and geography to the accessibility of high quality child care and early childhood education opportunities; and

(4) Development and promotion of a unified early childhood data system and the ability to link child level data with K-12 and other key data systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee and Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.