

## ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 31**

Introduced by Campbell, 25; Avery, 28; Coash, 27; Dubas, 34; McGill, 26;  
Pirsch, 4.

WHEREAS, in 2009, in response to Nebraska's lack of behavioral health services for children and families, the Legislature passed LB 603, which enacted the Children and Family Behavioral Health Support Act and the Behavioral Health Workforce Act. The legislation created several programs intended to help families who were faced with children's behavioral health problems, including the Children and Family Support Hotline, the Family Navigator Program, and the post-adoption and post-guardianship assistance program (known as Right Turn). In addition to these new programs, LB 603 expanded existing programs, including the Professional Partner Programs in the state's six behavioral health regions. LB 603 also created the Behavioral Health Education Center, administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, to increase the number of behavioral healthcare practitioners in Nebraska. To monitor the effect of implementation of this legislation, LB 603 created the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature as a special committee of the Legislature. The committee was also charged with monitoring other child welfare and juvenile justice initiatives by the Department of Health and Human Services related to the provision of behavioral health services to children and their families; and

WHEREAS, LB 603 provided that the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature, and the section of statute which created it (71-827), would terminate on December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Legislature passed and Governor Heineman signed LB 821, which created the Nebraska Children's Commission, charged with creating a system-wide strategic plan for child welfare, reviewing Department of Health and Human Services' operations regarding child welfare, and providing a permanent forum for state, local, and community collaboration on child welfare; and

WHEREAS, though no longer provided for by statute, the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature warrants a one-year extension to transition its oversight to the Nebraska Children's Commission.

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

1. That the Legislature hereby calls for the Executive Board of the Legislative Council to meet forthwith and appoint the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature as a special committee of the Legislature. The committee shall consist of nine members of the Legislature appointed by the executive board as follows: (a) Two members of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature; (b) two members of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature; (c) two members of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature; and (d) three members of the Legislature who are not members of such committees. The executive board shall give consideration to appointing members who previously served on the

Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature. The committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members.

2. The Children's Behavior Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature is hereby authorized to monitor programs implemented by the Children and Family Behavioral Health Support Act and other child welfare and juvenile justice initiatives implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services related to the provision of behavioral health services to children and their families. The committee shall meet as necessary with representatives of the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Nebraska Children's Commission and with other interested parties. The committee also may hold public hearings. Staff support for the committee shall be provided by existing legislative staff as directed by the executive board. The committee may request the executive board to hire consultants that the committee deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the committee.

3. The Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature shall issue reports as the circumstances warrant.

4. The Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature is hereby authorized to continue its work until the beginning of the One Hundred Third Legislature, Second Session, to provide an orderly transition of its oversight to the Nebraska Children's Commission.