

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB992

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 04, 2014

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

It is in the best interest of the state and its residents that the early childhood data that currently exist across the State Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the data collection gaps that can be identified and addressed through a plan for a unified early childhood data system in Nebraska be shared to support continuous improvement. This information is essential to determining whether public investments in early childhood put children on track to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

LB 992 is intended to create an Early Childhood Data Governing Body that includes decision makers with authority over budgets and agency policies, stakeholders who understand the meaning behind the data and how data would be used, and information technology or data managers. The purpose of the governing body is to develop a plan to create and sustain a unified early childhood data system in Nebraska which shall answer key questions about publicly funded early childhood services, provide greater accountability for public investment in services for children from birth through eight years of age, and guide future investment in early childhood education and child care services.

LB 992 also requires that the Early Childhood Data Governing Body shall report to the Health and Human Services Committee and Education Committee on its activities January 1, 2015 and July 1, 2015. The body shall complete the plan and provide a written report to the Governor and electronically to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2016.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Sara Howard