LEGISLATIVE BILL 561

Approved by the Governor May 29, 2013

Introduced by Ashford, 20; Campbell, 25; Krist, 10; McGill, 26; Chambers, 11.

FOR AN ACT relating to juveniles; to amend sections 29-2257, 43-247, 43-251, 43-260.01, 43-260.04, 43-260.05, 43-260.07, 43-279.01, 43-281, 43-284, 43-284.01, 43-404, 43-406, 43-407, 43-408, 43-410, 43-413, 43-414, 43-417, 43-418, 43-420, 43-421, 43-422, 43-423, 43-1411.01, 43-2402, 43-2404, 43-2404.01, 43-2411, 43-2930, 81-1417, 83-4,124, 83-4,125, 83-4,132, and 83-4,134, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 28-726, 29-2204, 29-2258, 42-364, 43-245, 43-251.01, 43-254, 43-258, 43-272.01, 43-285, 43-286, 43-2,108.05, 43-2,129, 43-405, 43-412, 43-415, 43-416, 43-2404.02, 43-2412, 43-4203, 43-4314, 43-4318, 43-4320, 43-4321, 43-4324, 81-8,245, 83-4,126, 83-4,131, and 83-4,133, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to change provisions relating to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, the Office of Probation Administration, probation officers, and juvenile detention, pretrial diversion, evaluation, placement, treatment, parole, and discharge; to change provisions relating to sealed records, parenting plans, custody, termination of parental rights, juvenile facilities, and the Commission Grant Program; to rename and change provisions of the County Juvenile Services Aid Program; to change membership and powers and duties of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice; to create the positions of Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program and Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs; to create the Community and Family Reentry Process; to state intent regarding the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project and appropriations; to change duties of the Nebraska Children’s Commission; to change powers and duties of the Office of the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare; to provide powers and duties for the Public Counsel; to add a member to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice; to provide for applicability of minimum jail standards for staff secure juvenile facilities; to define and redefine terms; to provide for a model alternative response for child abuse or neglect reports; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

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

Section 1. Section 28-726, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

28-726 Except as provided in this section and sections 28-722 and 81-3126, no person, official, or agency shall have access to information in the tracking system of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-715 or in records in the central register of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-718 unless in furtherance of purposes directly connected with the administration of the Child Protection Act. Such persons, officials, and agencies having access to such information shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A law enforcement agency investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect;
(2) A county attorney in preparation of a child abuse or neglect petition or termination of parental rights petition;
(3) A physician who has before him or her a child whom he or she reasonably suspects may be abused or neglected;
(4) An agency having the legal responsibility or authorization to care for, treat, or supervise an abused or neglected child or a parent, a guardian, or other person responsible for the abused or neglected child’s welfare who is the subject of the report of child abuse or neglect;
(5) Any person engaged in bona fide research or auditing. No information identifying the subjects of the report of child abuse or neglect shall be made available to the researcher or auditor;
(6) The Foster Care Review Office and the designated local foster care review board when the information relates to a child in a foster care placement as defined in section 43-1301. The information provided to the office and local board shall not include the name or identity of any person making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect;
(7) The designated protection and advocacy system authorized pursuant to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
of 2000, 42 U.S.C. 15001, as the act existed on January 1, 2005, and the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act, 42 U.S.C. 10801, as the act existed on September 1, 2001, acting upon a complaint received from or on behalf of a person with developmental disabilities or mental illness;

(8) The person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected child in situations of alleged out-of-home child abuse or neglect; and

(9) For purposes of licensing providers of child care programs, the Department of Health and Human Services;

(10) A probation officer administering juvenile intake services pursuant to section 29-2260.01, conducting court-ordered predispositional investigations prior to disposition, or supervising a juvenile upon disposition.

Sec. 2. Section 29-2204, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

29-2204 (1) Except when a term of life imprisonment is required by law, in imposing an indeterminate sentence upon an offender the court shall:

(a) Until July 1, 1998, fix the minimum and maximum limits of the sentence to be served within the limits provided by law, except that when a maximum limit of life is imposed by the court for a Class IB felony, the minimum limit may be any term of years not less than the statutory mandatory minimum; and

(ii) Beginning July 1, 1998:

(A) Fix the minimum and maximum limits of the sentence to be served within the limits provided by law for any class of felony other than a Class IV felony, except that when a maximum limit of life is imposed by the court for a Class IB felony, the minimum limit may be any term of years not less than the statutory mandatory minimum. If the criminal offense is a Class IV felony, the court shall fix the minimum and maximum limits of the sentence, but the minimum limit fixed by the court shall not be less than the minimum provided by law nor more than one-third of the maximum term and the maximum limit shall not be greater than the maximum provided by law; or

(B) Impose a definite term of years, in which event the maximum term of the sentence shall be the term imposed by the court and the minimum term shall be the minimum sentence provided by law;

(b) Advise the offender on the record the time the offender will serve on his or her minimum term before attaining parole eligibility assuming that no good time for which the offender will be eligible is lost; and

(c) Advise the offender on the record the time the offender will serve on his or her maximum term before attaining mandatory release assuming that no good time for which the offender will be eligible is lost.

If any discrepancy exists between the statement of the minimum limit of the sentence and the statement of parole eligibility or between the statement of the maximum limit of the sentence and the statement of mandatory release, the statements of the minimum limit and the maximum limit shall control the calculation of the offender’s term. If the court imposes more than one sentence upon an offender or imposes a sentence upon an offender who is at that time serving another sentence, the court shall state whether the sentences are to be concurrent or consecutive.

(2) (a) When the court is of the opinion that imprisonment may be appropriate but desires more detailed information as a basis for determining the sentence to be imposed than has been provided by the presentence report required by section 29-2261, the court shall commit an offender to the Department of Correctional Services for a period not exceeding ninety days. The department shall conduct a complete study of the offender during that time, inquiring into such matters as his or her previous delinquency or criminal experience, social background, capabilities, and mental, emotional, and physical health and the rehabilitative resources or programs which may be available to suit his or her needs. By the expiration of the period of commitment or by the expiration of such additional time as the court shall grant, not exceeding a further period of ninety days, the offender shall be returned to the court for sentencing and the court shall be provided with a written report of the results of the study, including whatever recommendations the department believes will be helpful to a proper resolution of the case. After receiving the report and the recommendations, the court shall proceed to sentence the offender in accordance with subsection (1) of this section. The term of the sentence shall run from the date of original commitment under this subsection.

(b) In order to encourage the use of this procedure in appropriate cases, all costs incurred during the period the defendant is held in a state institution under this subsection shall be a responsibility of the state and the county shall be liable only for the cost of delivering the defendant to the institution and the cost of returning him or her to the appropriate
court for sentencing or such other disposition as the court may then deem appropriate.

(3) Except when a term of life is required by law, whenever the defendant was under eighteen years of age at the time he or she committed the crime for which he or she was convicted, the court may, in its discretion, instead of imposing the penalty provided for the crime, make such disposition of the defendant as the court deems proper under the Nebraska Juvenile Code.

Sec. 2. In October 1, 2013, prior to making a disposition which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the juvenile to be evaluated by the office if the juvenile has not had an evaluation within the past twelve months.

Sec. 3. Section 29-2257, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

29-2257 The Nebraska Probation System is established which shall consist of the probation administrator, chief probation officers, probation officers, and support staff. The system shall be responsible for juvenile intake services, for prejudication juvenile supervision services under section 43-254 beginning October 1, 2013, for presentence and other probation investigations, for the direct supervision of persons placed on probation, and for non-probation-based programs and services authorized by an interlocal agreement pursuant to subdivision (16) of section 29-2252. The system shall be sufficient in size to assure that no probation officer carries a caseload larger than is compatible with adequate probation investigation or supervision. Probation officers shall be compensated with salaries substantially equal to other state employees who have similar responsibilities.

This provision for salary equalization shall apply only to probation officers and support staff and shall not apply to chief probation officers, the probation administrator, the chief deputy administrator, the deputy probation administrator, or any other similarly established management positions.

Sec. 4. Section 29-2258, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

29-2258 A district probation officer shall:
(1) Conduct juvenile intake interviews and investigations in accordance with sections 43-253 and 43-260.01 and, beginning October 1, 2013, supervise delivery of prejudication juvenile services under subdivision (6) of section 43-254;
(2) Make presentence and other investigations, as may be required by law or directed by a court in which he or she is serving;
(3) Supervise probationers in accordance with the rules and regulations of the office and the directions of the sentencing court;
(4) Advise the sentencing court, in accordance with the Nebraska Probation Administration Act and such rules and regulations of the office, of violations of the conditions of probation by individual probationers;
(5) Advise the sentencing court, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the office and the direction of the court, when the situation of a probationer may require a modification of the conditions of probation or when a probationer's adjustment is such as to warrant termination of probation;
(6) Provide each probationer with a statement of the period and conditions of his or her probation;
(7) Whenever necessary, exercise the power of arrest or temporary custody as provided in section 29-2266 or 43-286.01;
(8) Establish procedures for the direction and guidance of deputy probation officers under his or her jurisdiction and advise such officers in regard to the most effective performance of their duties;
(9) Supervise and evaluate deputy probation officers under his or her jurisdiction;
(10) Delegate such duties and responsibilities to a deputy probation officer as he or she deems appropriate;
(11) Make such reports as required by the administrator, the judges of the probation district in which he or she serves, or the Supreme Court;
(12) Keep accurate and complete accounts of all money or property collected or received from probationers and give receipts therefor;
(13) Cooperate fully with and render all reasonable assistance to other probation officers;
(14) In counties with a population of less than twenty-five thousand people, participate in pretrial diversion programs established pursuant to sections 29-3601 to 29-3604 and juvenile pretrial diversion programs established pursuant to sections 43-260.02 to 43-260.07 as requested by judges of the probation district in which he or she serves or as requested by a
county attorney and approved by the judges of the probation district in which he or she serves, except that participation in such programs shall not require appointment of additional personnel and shall be consistent with the probation officer’s current caseload;

(15) Participate, at the direction of the probation administrator pursuant to an interlocal agreement which meets the requirements of section 29-2255, in non-probation-based programs and services;

(16) Perform such other duties not inconsistent with the Nebraska Probation Administration Act or the rules and regulations of the office as a court may from time to time direct; and

(17) Exercise all powers and perform all duties necessary and proper to carry out his or her responsibilities.

Sec. 5. Section 42-364, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

42-364 (1)(a) In an action under Chapter 42 involving child support, child custody, parenting time, visitation, or other access, the parties and their counsel, if represented, shall develop a parenting plan as provided in the Parenting Act. If the parties and counsel do not develop a parenting plan, the complaint shall so indicate as provided in section 42-353 and before July 1, 2010, the case may be referred to mediation, specialized alternative dispute resolution, or other alternative dispute resolution process and on or after such date the case shall be referred to mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution as provided in the Parenting Act. For good cause shown and (i) when both parents agree and such parental agreement is bona fide and not asserted to avoid the purposes of the Parenting Act, or (ii) when mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution is not possible without undue delay or hardship to either parent, the mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution requirement may be waived by the court. In such a case where waiver of the mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution is sought, the court shall hold an evidentiary hearing and the burden of proof for the party or parties seeking waiver is by clear and convincing evidence.

(b) The decree in an action involving the custody of a minor child shall include the determination of legal custody and physical custody based upon the best interests of the child, as defined in the Parenting Act, and child support. Such determinations shall be made by incorporation into the decree of (i) a parenting plan developed by the parties, if approved by the court, or (ii) a parenting plan developed by the court based upon evidence produced after a hearing in open court if no parenting plan is developed by the parties or the plan developed by the parties is not approved by the court. The decree shall conform to the Parenting Act.

(c) The social security number of each parent and the minor child shall be furnished to the clerk of the district court but shall not be disclosed or considered a public record.

(2) In determining legal custody or physical custody, the court shall not give preference to either parent based on the sex of the parent and, except as provided in section 43-2933, no presumption shall exist that either parent is more fit or suitable than the other. Custody shall be determined on the basis of the best interests of the child, as defined in the Parenting Act. Unless parental rights are terminated, both parents shall continue to have the rights stated in section 42-381.

(3) Custody of a minor child may be placed with both parents on a joint legal custody or joint physical custody basis, or both, (a) when both parents agree to such an arrangement in the parenting plan and the court determines that such an arrangement is in the best interests of the child or (b) if the court specifically finds, after a hearing in open court, that joint physical custody or joint legal custody, or both, is in the best interests of the minor child regardless of any parental agreement or consent.

(4) In determining the amount of child support to be paid by a parent, the court shall consider the earning capacity of each parent and the guidelines provided by the Supreme Court pursuant to section 42-364.16 for the establishment of child support obligations. Upon application, hearing, and presentation of evidence of an abusive disregard of the use of child support money for cash medical support paid by one party to the other, the court may require the party receiving such payment to file a verified report with the court, as often as the court requires, stating the manner in which child support money or cash medical support is used. Child support money or cash medical support paid to the party having physical custody of the minor child shall be the property of such party except as provided in section 43-512.07. The clerk of the district court shall maintain a record, separate from all other judgment dockets, of all decrees and orders in which the payment of child support, cash medical support, or spousal support has been ordered.
whether ordered by a district court, county court, separate juvenile court, or county court sitting as a juvenile court. Orders for child support or cash medical support in cases in which a party has applied for services under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, shall be reviewed as provided in sections 43-512.12 to 43-512.18.

(5) Whenever termination of parental rights is placed in issue—(a) the court shall transfer jurisdiction to a juvenile court established pursuant to the Nebraska Juvenile Code unless a showing is made that the county court or district court is a more appropriate forum. In making such determination, the court may consider such factors as cost to the parties, undue delay, congestion of dockets, and relative resources available for investigative and supervisory assistance. A determination that the county court or district court is a more appropriate forum shall not be a final order for the purpose of enabling an appeal. If no such transfer is made, the court shall appoint an attorney as guardian ad litem to protect the interests of any minor child. The court may terminate the parental rights of one or both parents after notice and hearing when the court finds such action to be in the best interests of the minor child, as defined in the Parenting Act, and it appears by the evidence that one or more of the grounds for termination of parental rights stated in section 43-292 exist; and (b) conduct the termination of parental rights proceeding as provided in the Nebraska Juvenile Code.

(b). The court shall inform a parent who does not have legal counsel of the parent’s right to retain counsel and of the parent’s right to retain legal counsel at county expense if such parent is unable to afford legal counsel. If such parent is unable to afford legal counsel and requests the court to appoint legal counsel, the court shall immediately appoint an attorney to represent the parent in the termination proceedings. The court shall order the county to pay the attorney’s fees and all reasonable expenses incurred by the attorney in protecting the rights of the parent. At such hearing, the guardian ad litem shall take all action necessary to protect the interests of the minor child. The court shall fix the fees and expenses of the guardian ad litem and tax the same as costs but may order the county to pay on finding the responsible party indigent and unable to pay.

(6) Modification proceedings relating to support, custody, parenting time, visitation, other access, or removal of children from the jurisdiction of the court shall be commenced by filing a complaint to modify. Modification of a parenting plan is governed by the Parenting Act. Proceedings to modify a parenting plan shall be commenced by filing a complaint to modify. Such actions may be referred to mediation, specialized alternative dispute resolution, or other alternative dispute resolution process before July 1, 2010, and on and after such date shall be referred to mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution as provided in the Parenting Act. For good cause shown and (a) when both parents agree and such parental agreement is bona fide and not asserted to avoid the purposes of the Parenting Act, or (b) when mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution is not possible without undue delay or hardship to either parent, the mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution requirement may be waived by the court. In such a case where waiver of the mediation or specialized alternative dispute resolution is sought, the court shall hold an evidentiary hearing and the burden of proof for the party or parties seeking waiver is by clear and convincing evidence. Service of process and other procedure shall comply with the requirements for a dissolution action.

(7) In any proceeding under this section relating to custody of a child of school age, certified copies of school records relating to attendance and academic progress of such child are admissible in evidence.

Sec. 6. Section 43-245, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-245 For purposes of the Nebraska Juvenile Code, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Age of majority means nineteen years of age;

(2) Approved center means a center that has applied for and received approval from the Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution under section 25-2909;

(3) Civil citation means a noncriminal notice which cannot result in a criminal record and is described in section 43-248.02;

(4) Cost or costs means (a) the sum or equivalent expended, paid, or charged for goods or services, or expenses incurred, or (b) the contracted or negotiated price;

(5) Criminal street gang means a group of three or more people with a common identifying name, sign, or symbol whose group identity or purposes include engaging in illegal activities;

(6) Criminal street gang member means a person who willingly or
voluntarily becomes and remains a member of a criminal street gang;

(7) Custodian means a nonparental caretaker having physical custody of the juvenile and includes an appointee described in section 43-294;

(8) Guardian means a person, other than a parent, who has qualified by law as the guardian of a juvenile pursuant to testamentary or court appointment, but excludes a person who is merely a guardian ad litem;

43-9 Juvenile means any person under the age of eighteen;

43-10 Juvenile court means the separate juvenile court where it has been established pursuant to sections 43-2,111 to 43-2,127 and the county court sitting as a juvenile court in all other counties. Nothing in the Nebraska Juvenile Code shall be construed to deprive the district courts of their habeas corpus, common-law, or chancery jurisdiction or the county courts and district courts of jurisdiction of domestic relations matters as defined in section 25-2740;

43-11 Juvenile detention facility has the same meaning as in section 83-4,125;

43-12 Legal custody has the same meaning as in section 43-2922;

43-13 Mediator for juvenile offender and victim mediation means a person who (a) has completed at least thirty hours of training in conflict resolution techniques, neutrality, agreement writing, and ethics set forth in section 25-2913, (b) has an additional eight hours of juvenile offender and victim mediation training, and (c) meets the apprenticeship requirements set forth in section 25-2913;

43-14 Mental health facility means a treatment facility as defined in section 71-914 or a government, private, or state hospital which treats mental illness;

43-15 Nonoffender means a juvenile who is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for reasons other than legally prohibited conduct, including, but not limited to, juveniles described in subdivision (3)(a) of section 43-247;

43-16 Nonsecure detention means detention characterized by the absence of restrictive hardware, construction, and procedure. Nonsecure detention services may include a range of placement and supervision options, such as home detention, electronic monitoring, day reporting, drug court, tracking and monitoring supervision, staff secure and temporary holdover facilities, and group homes;

43-17 Parent means one or both parents or a stepparent stepparents when such the stepparent is married to the custodial a person who has physical custody of the juvenile as of the filing of the petition;

43-18 Parties means the juvenile as described in section 43-247 and his or her parent, guardian, or custodian;

43-19 Physical custody has the same meaning as in section 43-2922;

43-20 Except in proceedings under the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, relative means father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, or niece;

43-21 Seal a record means that a record shall not be available to the public except upon the order of a court upon good cause shown;

43-22 Secure detention means detention in a highly structured, residential, hardware-secured facility designed to restrict a juvenile’s movement;

43-23 Staff secure juvenile facility means a juvenile residential facility operated by a political subdivision (a) which does not include construction designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of juveniles who are in custody in the facility, (b) in which physical restriction of movement or activity of juveniles is provided solely through staff, (c) which may establish reasonable rules restricting ingress to and egress from the facility, and (d) in which the movements and activities of individual juvenile residents may, for treatment purposes, be restricted or subject to control through the use of intensive staff supervision. Staff secure juvenile facility does not include any institution operated by the department;

43-24 Status offender means a juvenile who has been charged with or adjudicated for conduct which would not be a crime if committed by an adult, including, but not limited to, juveniles charged under subdivision (3)(b) of section 43-247 and sections 53-180.01 and 53-180.02; and

43-25 Traffic offense means any nonfelony act in violation of a law or ordinance regulating vehicular or pedestrian travel, whether designated a misdemeanor or a traffic infraction.

Sec. 7. Section 43-247, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-247 The Except as provided in section 8 of this act, the juvenile
court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction as to any juvenile defined in subdivision (1) of this section who is under the age of sixteen, as to any juvenile defined in subdivision (3) of this section, and as to the parties and proceedings provided in subdivisions (5), (6), and (4)(7) of this section. As used in this section, all references to the juvenile’s age shall be the age at the time the act which occasioned the juvenile court action occurred. The juvenile court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court as to any juvenile defined in subdivision (2) of this section. The juvenile court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court and county court as to any juvenile defined in subdivision (1) of this section who is age sixteen or seventeen, any juvenile defined in subdivision (4) of this section, and any proceeding under subdivision (7) (6) or (11) (10) of this section. The juvenile court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction with the county court as to any proceeding under subdivision (4)(8) or (10)(9) of this section. Notwithstanding any disposition entered by the juvenile court under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, the juvenile court’s jurisdiction over any individual adjudged to be within the provisions of this section shall continue until the individual reaches the age of majority or the court otherwise discharges the individual from its jurisdiction.

The juvenile court in each county as herein provided shall have jurisdiction of:

(1) Any juvenile who has committed an act other than a traffic offense which would constitute a misdemeanor or an infraction under the laws of this state or violation of a city or village ordinance;

(2) Any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a felony under the laws of this state;

(3) Any juvenile (a) who is homeless or destitute, or without proper support through no fault of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who is abandoned by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; whose parent, guardian, or custodian neglects or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, or other care necessary for the health, morals, or well-being of such juvenile; whose parent, guardian, or custodian is unable to provide or neglects or refuses to provide special care made necessary by the mental condition of the juvenile; or who is in a situation or engages in an occupation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to the health or morals of such juvenile, (b) who, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who deports himself or herself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself, herself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school, or (c) who is mentally ill and dangerous as defined in section 71-908;

(4) Any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a traffic offense as defined in section 43-245;

(5) The parent, guardian, or custodian of any juvenile described in this section;

(6) The proceedings for termination of parental rights; as provided in the Nebraska Juvenile Code;

(7) The proceedings for termination of parental rights as provided in section 42-364;

(8) Any juvenile who has been voluntarily relinquished, pursuant to section 43-106.01, to the Department of Health and Human Services or any child placement agency licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(9) Any juvenile who was a ward of the juvenile court at the inception of his or her guardianship and whose guardianship has been disrupted or terminated;

(10) The adoption or guardianship proceedings for a child over which the juvenile court already has jurisdiction under another provision of the Nebraska Juvenile Code; and

(11) The paternity or custody determination for a child over which the juvenile court already has jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Nebraska Juvenile Code, the determination of jurisdiction over any Indian child as defined in section 43-1503 shall be subject to the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act; and the district court shall have exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings brought pursuant to section 71-510.

Sec. 8. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of Nebraska law, on and after October 1, 2013, a juvenile court shall not:

(a) Place any juvenile adjudicated or pending adjudication under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 with the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Services, other than as
allowed under subsection (2) or (3) of this section;

(b) Commit any juvenile adjudicated or pending adjudication under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Services, other than as allowed under subsection (2) or (3) of this section;

(c) Require the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Services to supervise any juvenile adjudicated or pending adjudication under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, other than as allowed under subsection (2) or (3) of this section; or

(d) Require the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Services to provide, arrange for, or pay for any services for any juvenile adjudicated or pending adjudication under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, or for any party to cases under those subdivisions, other than as allowed under subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of Nebraska law, on and after July 1, 2013, a juvenile court shall not commit a juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center except as part of an order of intensive supervised probation under subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of section 43-286.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority or duties of the Department of Health and Human Services in relation to juveniles adjudicated under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 who are committed to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services prior to October 1, 2013, to the Office of Juvenile Services for community-based services prior to October 1, 2013, or to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. The care and custody of such juveniles with the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Services shall continue in accordance with the Nebraska Juvenile Code and the Juvenile Services Act as such acts existed on January 1, 2013, until:

(a) The juvenile reaches the age of majority;

(b) The juvenile is no longer under the care and custody of the department pursuant to a court order or for any other reason, a guardian other than the department is appointed for the juvenile, or the juvenile is adopted;

(c) The juvenile is discharged pursuant to section 43-412, as such section existed on January 1, 2013; or

(d) A juvenile court terminates its jurisdiction of the juvenile.

Sec. 9. Section 43-251, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-251 (1) When a juvenile is taken into custody pursuant to sections 43-248 and 43-250, the court or magistrate may take any action for preadjudication placement or detention prescribed in the Nebraska Juvenile Code.

(2) Any juvenile taken into custody under the Nebraska Juvenile Code for allegedly being mentally ill and dangerous shall not be placed in a staff secure juvenile facility, jail, or detention facility designed for juveniles who are accused of criminal acts or for juveniles as described in subdivision (1), (2), or (4) of section 43-247 either as a temporary placement by a peace officer, as a temporary placement by a court, or as an adjudication placement by the court.

Sec. 10. Section 43-251.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-251.01 All placements and commitments of juveniles for evaluations or as temporary or final dispositions are subject to the following:

(1) No juvenile shall be confined in an adult correctional facility as a disposition of the court;

(2) A juvenile who is found to be a juvenile as described in subdivision (3) of section 43-247 shall not be placed in an adult correctional facility, the secure youth confinement facility operated by the Department of Correctional Services, or a youth rehabilitation and treatment center or committed to the Office of Juvenile Services;

(3) A juvenile who is found to be a juvenile adjudicated or pending adjudication under subdivision (1), (2), or (4) of section 43-247 shall not be assigned or transferred to an adult correctional facility or the secure youth confinement facility operated by the Department of Correctional Services; and

(4) A juvenile under the age of fourteen years shall not be placed with or committed to a youth rehabilitation and treatment center; and except as provided in section 43-286, or

(5) A juvenile shall not be detained in secure detention or placed at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center unless detention or placement
of such juvenile is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile or the person or property of another or if it appears that such juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court.

Sec. 11. Section 43-254, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-254 Pending the adjudication of any case, and subject to subdivision (1) of section 43-251.01, if it appears that the need for placement or further detention exists, the juvenile may be (1) placed or detained a reasonable period of time on order of the court in the temporary custody of either the person having charge of the juvenile or some other suitable person, (2) kept in some suitable place provided by the city or county authorities, (3) placed in any proper and accredited charitable institution, (4) placed in a state institution, except any adult correctional facility, when proper facilities are available and the only local facility is a city or county jail, at the expense of the committing county on a per diem basis as determined from time to time by the head of the particular institution, or (5) placed in the temporary care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services when it does not appear that there is any need for secure detention, except that beginning October 1, 2013, no juvenile alleged to be a juvenile described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 shall be placed in the care and custody or under the supervision of the Department of Health and Human Services, or (6) beginning October 1, 2013, offered supervision options as determined pursuant to section 43-260.01 through the Office of Probation Administration as ordered by the court and agreed to in writing by the parties, if the juvenile is alleged to be a juvenile described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 and it does not appear that there is any need for secure detention. The court may assess the cost of such placement or detention in whole or in part to the parent of the juvenile as provided in section 43-290.

If a juvenile has been removed from his or her parent, guardian, or custodian pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 43-248, the court may enter an order continuing detention or placement upon a written determination that continuation of the juvenile in his or her home would be contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of such juvenile and that reasonable efforts were made to preserve and reunify the family if required under subsections (1) through (4) of section 43-283.01.

Sec. 12. Section 43-258, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-258 (1) Pending the adjudication of any case under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, the court may order the juvenile examined by a physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, duly authorized community mental health service program, or psychologist to aid the court in determining (a) a material allegation in the petition relating to the juvenile’s physical or mental condition, (b) the juvenile’s competence to participate in the proceedings, (c) the juvenile’s responsibility for his or her acts, or (d) whether or not to provide emergency medical treatment.

(2)(a) Pending the adjudication of any case under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, after a showing of probable cause that the juvenile is within the court’s jurisdiction, for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the court may order such juvenile to be placed with the Department of Health and Human Services for evaluation, except that on and after October 1, 2013, no juvenile alleged to be a juvenile as described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 shall be placed with the Department of Health and Human Services. If a juvenile is placed with the Department of Health and Human Services under this subdivision, the department shall make arrangements for an appropriate evaluation. The department shall determine whether the evaluation will be made on a residential or nonresidential basis. Placement with the department for the purposes of this section shall be for a period not to exceed thirty days. If necessary to complete the evaluation, the court may order an extension not to exceed an additional thirty days. Any temporary placement of a juvenile made under this section shall be in the least restrictive environment consistent with the best interests of the juvenile and the safety of the community.

(b) Beginning October 1, 2013, pending the adjudication of any case in which a juvenile is alleged to be a juvenile as described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 and after a showing of probable cause that the juvenile is within the court’s jurisdiction, for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the court may order an evaluation. The Office of Probation Administration shall provide and pay for any evaluation ordered by the court under this subdivision if the office determines that there are no parental funds or private or public insurance available to pay for such evaluation. Any temporary placement of a juvenile made under this
section shall be in the least restrictive environment consistent with the best interests of the juvenile and the safety of the community.

(3) Upon completion of the evaluation, the juvenile shall be returned to the court together with a written report of the results of the evaluation. Such report shall include an assessment of the basic needs of the juvenile and recommendations for continuous and long-term care and shall be made to effectuate the purposes in subdivision (1) of section 43-246. The juvenile shall appear before the court for a hearing on the report of the evaluation results within ten days after the court receives the evaluation.

(4) During any period of detention or evaluation prior to adjudication:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (4)(b) of this section, the county in which the case is pending is responsible for all detention costs incurred before and after an evaluation period prior to adjudication, the cost of delivering the juvenile to the location of the evaluation, and the cost of returning the juvenile to the court for further proceedings; and

(b) The State Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for (i) the costs incurred during an evaluation if the juvenile has been placed with the Department of Health and Human Services department unless otherwise ordered by the court pursuant to section 43-290 and (ii) the preevaluation detention costs for any days over the first ten days from the date the court places the juvenile with the department for evaluation, except that on and after October 1, 2013, the department shall not be responsible for any such costs in any case in which a juvenile is allowed to be a juvenile as described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247.

(5) The Department of Health and Human Services is not responsible for preadjudication costs except as provided in subdivision (4)(b) of this section.

Sec. 13. Section 43-260.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-260.01 The need for preadjudication placement or supervision and the need for detention of a juvenile and whether secure or nonsecure detention is indicated shall be subject to subdivision (5) of section 43-251.01 and may be determined as follows:

(1) The standardized juvenile detention screening instrument shall be used to evaluate the juvenile;

(2) If the results indicate that secure detention is not required, nonsecure detention placement or supervision options shall be pursued; and

(3) If the results indicate that secure detention is required, detention at the secure level as indicated by the instrument shall be pursued.

Sec. 14. Section 43-260.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-260.04 A juvenile pretrial diversion program shall:

(1) Be an option available for the county attorney or city attorney based upon his or her determination under this subdivision. The county attorney or city attorney may use the following information:

(a) The juvenile’s age;

(b) The nature of the offense and role of the juvenile in the offense;

(c) The number and nature of previous offenses involving the juvenile;

(d) The dangerousness or threat posed by the juvenile to persons or property or

(e) The recommendations of the referring agency, victim, and advocates for the juvenile;

(2) Permit participation by a juvenile only on a voluntary basis and shall include a juvenile diversion agreement described in section 43-260.06;

(3) Allow the juvenile to consult with counsel prior to a decision to participate in the program;

(4) Be offered to the juvenile when practicable prior to an adjudication the filing of a juvenile petition or a criminal charge but after the arrest of the juvenile or issuance of a citation to the juvenile if after the arrest or citation a decision has been made by the county attorney or city attorney that the offense will support the filing of a juvenile petition or criminal charges;

(5) Provide screening services for use in creating a diversion plan utilizing appropriate services for the juvenile;

44) (6) Result in dismissal of the juvenile petition or criminal charges if the juvenile successfully completes the program;

44) (7) Be designed and operated to further the goals stated in section 43-260.03 and comply with sections 43-260.04 to 43-260.07; and

44) (8) Require information received by the program regarding the
juvenile to remain confidential unless a release of information is signed upon admission to the program or is otherwise authorized by law.

Sec. 15. Section 43-260.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-260.05 A juvenile pretrial diversion program may:

1. Provide screening services to the court and county attorney or city attorney to help identify likely candidates for the program;
2. Establish goals for diverted juvenile offenders and monitor performance of the goals;
3. Perform chemical dependency assessments of diverted juvenile offenders when indicated, make appropriate referrals for treatment, and monitor treatment and aftercare;
4. Provide individual, group, and family counseling services;
5. Oversee the payment of victim restitution by diverted juvenile offenders;
6. Assist diverted juvenile offenders in identifying and contacting appropriate community resources;
7. Provide educational services to diverted juvenile offenders to enable them to earn a high school diploma or general education development diploma; and
8. Provide accurate information on how diverted juvenile offenders perform in the program to the juvenile courts, county attorneys, city attorneys, defense attorneys, and probation officers.

Sec. 16. Section 43-260.07, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-260.07 (1) Beginning December 1, 2003, and every December 1 thereafter, on January 30 of each year, every county attorney or city attorney of a county or city which has a juvenile pretrial diversion program shall report to the Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs the information pertaining to the program required by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to the commission.

(2) Juvenile pretrial diversion program data shall be maintained and compiled by the Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs. the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Sec. 17. Section 43-272.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-272.01 (1) A guardian ad litem as provided for in subsections (2) and (3) of section 43-272 shall be appointed when a child is removed from his or her surroundings pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3) of section 43-248, subsection (2) of section 43-250, or section 43-251. If removal has not occurred, a guardian ad litem shall be appointed at the commencement of all cases brought under subdivision (3)(a) of § 43-247 and section 28-707.

(2) In the course of discharging duties as guardian ad litem, the person so appointed shall consider, but not be limited to, the criteria provided in this subsection. The guardian ad litem:

(a) Is appointed to stand in lieu of a parent for a protected juvenile who is the subject of a juvenile court petition, shall be present at all hearings before the court in such matter unless expressly excused by the court, and may enter into such stipulations and agreements concerning adjudication and disposition deemed by him or her to be in the juvenile's best interests;

(b) Is not appointed to defend the parents or other custodian of the protected juvenile but shall defend the legal and social interests of such juvenile. Social interests shall be defined generally as the usual and reasonable expectations of society for the appropriate parental custody and protection and quality of life for juveniles without regard to the socioeconomic status of the parents or other custodians of the juvenile;

(c) May at any time after the filing of the petition move the court of jurisdiction to provide medical or psychological treatment or evaluation as set out in section 43-258. The guardian ad litem shall have access to all reports resulting from any examination ordered under section 43-258, and such reports shall be used for evaluating the status of the protected juvenile;

(d) Shall make every reasonable effort to become familiar with the needs of the protected juvenile which (i) shall include consultation with the juvenile within two weeks after the appointment and once every six months thereafter and inquiry of the most current caseworker, foster parent, or other custodian and (ii) may include inquiry of others directly involved with the juvenile or who may have information or knowledge about the circumstances which brought the juvenile court action or related cases and the development
of the juvenile, including biological parents, physicians, psychologists, teachers, and clergy members;

(e) May present evidence and witnesses and cross-examine witnesses at all evidentiary hearings. In any proceeding under this section relating to a child of school age, certified copies of school records relating to attendance and academic progress of such child are admissible in evidence;

(f) Shall be responsible for making recommendations to the court regarding the temporary and permanent placement of the protected juvenile and shall submit a written report to the court at every dispositional or review hearing, or in the alternative, the court may provide the guardian ad litem with a checklist that shall be completed and presented to the court at every dispositional or review hearing;

(g) Shall consider such other information as is warranted by the nature and circumstances of a particular case; and

(h) May file a petition in the juvenile court on behalf of the juvenile, including a supplemental petition as provided in section 43-291. (3) Nothing in this section shall operate to limit the discretion of the juvenile court in protecting the best interests of a juvenile who is the subject of a juvenile court petition.

(4) For purposes of subdivision (2)(d) of this section, the court may order the expense of such consultation, if any, to be paid by the county in which the juvenile court action is brought or the court may, after notice and hearing, assess the cost of such consultation, if any, in whole or in part to the parents of the juvenile. The ability of the parents to pay and the amount of the payment shall be determined by the court by appropriate examination.

Sec. 18. Section 43-279.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-279.01 (1) When the petition alleges the juvenile to be within the provisions of subdivision (3)(a) of section 43-247 or when termination of parental rights is sought pursuant to subdivision (6) or (7) of section 43-247 and the parent, or custodian, or guardian appears with or without counsel, the court shall inform the parties of the:

(a) Nature of the proceedings and the possible consequences or dispositions pursuant to sections 43-284, 43-285, and 43-288 to 43-295;

(b) Right of the parent to engage counsel of their choice or to hire a lawyer.

(c) Right of a stepparent, custodian, or guardian to engage counsel of his or her choice and, if there are allegations against the stepparent, custodian, or guardian or when the petition is amended to include such allegations, to have counsel appointed if the stepparent, custodian, or guardian is unable to afford to hire a lawyer;

(d) Right to remain silent as to any matter of inquiry if the testimony sought to be elicited might tend to prove the parent or custodian guilty of any crime;

(e) Right to confront and cross-examine witnesses;

(f) Right to testify and to compel other witnesses to attend and testify;

(g) Right to a speedy adjudication hearing; and

(h) Right to appeal and have a transcript or record of the proceedings for such purpose.

(2) The court shall have the discretion as to whether or not to appoint counsel for a person who is not a party to the proceeding. If counsel is appointed, failure of the party to maintain contact with his or her court-appointed counsel or to keep such counsel advised of the party's current address may result in the counsel being discharged by the court.

(3) After giving the parties the information prescribed in subsection (1) of this section, the court may accept an in-court admission, an answer of no contest, or a denial from any parent, or custodian, or guardian as to all or any part of the allegations in the petition. The court shall ascertain a factual basis for an admission or an answer of no contest.

(4) In the case of a denial, the court shall allow a reasonable time for preparation if needed and then proceed to determine the question of whether the juvenile falls under the provisions of section 43-247 as alleged. After hearing the evidence, the court shall make a finding and adjudication to be entered on the records of the court as to whether the allegations in the petition have been proven by a preponderance of the evidence in cases under subdivision (3)(a) of section 43-247 or by clear and convincing evidence in proceedings to terminate parental rights. If an Indian child is involved, the standard of proof shall be in compliance with the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, if applicable.
44) (5) If the court shall find that the allegations of the petition or motion have not been proven by the requisite standard of proof, it shall dismiss the case or motion. If the court sustains the petition or motion, it shall allow a reasonable time for preparation if needed and then proceed to inquire into the matter of the proper disposition to be made of the juvenile.

Sec. 19. Section 43-281, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-281 (1) Following an adjudication of jurisdiction and prior to final disposition, the court may place the juvenile with the Office of Juvenile Services or the Department of Health and Human Services for evaluation, except that on and after October 1, 2013, no juvenile adjudicated under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 shall be placed with the office or the department. The office or department shall make arrangements arrange and pay for an appropriate evaluation if the office or department determines that there are no parental funds or private or public insurance available to pay for such evaluation, except that on and after October 1, 2013, the office and the department shall not be responsible for such evaluations of any juvenile adjudicated under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247.

(2) On and after October 1, 2013, following an adjudication of jurisdiction under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 and prior to final disposition, the court may order an evaluation. The Office of Probation Administration shall arrange and pay for the evaluation ordered by the court (3) if the office determines that there are no parental funds or private or public insurance available to pay for such evaluation. Any evaluation ordered under this subsection shall be completed and the juvenile shall be returned to the court within twenty-one days after the evaluation is ordered. The physician, psychologist, licensed mental health practitioner, licensed drug and alcohol counselor, or other provider responsible for completing the evaluation shall have up to ten days to complete the evaluation after receiving the referral authorizing the evaluation.

A juvenile pending evaluation ordered under subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall not reside in a detention facility at the time of the evaluation or while waiting for the completed evaluation to be returned to the court unless detention of such juvenile is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile or the person or property of another or if it appears that such juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court.

Sec. 20. Section 43-284, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-284 When any juvenile is adjudged to be under subdivision (3), (4), or 44(8) of section 43-247, the court may permit such juvenile to remain in his or her own home subject to supervision or may make an order committing the juvenile to (1) the care of some suitable institution, (2) inpatient or outpatient treatment at a mental health facility or mental health program, (3) the care of some reputable citizen of good moral character, (4) the care of some association willing to receive the juvenile embracing in its objects the purpose of caring for or obtaining homes for such juveniles, which association shall have been accredited as provided in section 43-296, (5) the care of a suitable family, or (6) the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services, except that a juvenile who is adjudicated to be a juvenile described in subdivision (3)(b) or (4) of section 43-247 shall not be committed to the care and custody or supervision of the department on or after October 1, 2013.

Under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this section, upon a determination by the court that there are no parental, private, or other public funds available for the care, custody, education, and maintenance of a juvenile, the court may order a reasonable sum for the care, custody, education, and maintenance of the juvenile to be paid out of a fund which shall be appropriated annually by the county where the petition is filed until suitable provisions may be made for the juvenile without such payment.

The amount to be paid by a county for education pursuant to this section shall not exceed the average cost for education of a public school student in the county in which the juvenile is placed and shall be paid only for education in kindergarten through grade twelve.

The court may enter a dispositional order removing a juvenile from his or her home upon a written determination that continuation in the home would be contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of such juvenile and that reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family have been made if required under section 43-283.01.

Sec. 21. Section 43-284.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
43-284.01 Any juvenile adjudged to be under subdivision (7) of section 43-247 shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services or the licensed child placement agency to whom the juvenile has been relinquished unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the best interests of the juvenile require that an alternative disposition be made. If the court makes such finding, then alternative disposition may be made as provided under section 43-284. Such alternative disposition shall be made by the department or licensed child placement agency of all responsibility with regard to such juvenile.

Sec. 22. Section 43-285, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-285 (1) When the court awards a juvenile to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services, an association, or an individual in accordance with the Nebraska Juvenile Code, the juvenile shall, unless otherwise ordered, become a ward and be subject to the guardianship of the department, association, or individual to whose care he or she is committed. Any such association and the department shall have authority, by and with the assent of the court, to determine the care, placement, medical services, psychiatric services, training, and expenditures on behalf of each juvenile committed to it. Such guardianship shall not include the guardianship of any estate of the juvenile.

(2) (a) This subdivision applies until October 1, 2013. Following an adjudication hearing at which a juvenile is adjudged to be under subdivision (3) of section 43-247, the court may order the department to prepare and file with the court a proposed plan for the care, placement, services, and permanency which are to be provided to such juvenile and his or her family. The health and safety of the juvenile shall be the paramount concern in the proposed plan. The department shall include in the plan for a juvenile who is sixteen years of age or older and subject to the guardianship of the department a written independent living transition proposal which meets the requirements of section 43-1311.03. The court may approve the plan, modify the plan, order that an alternative plan be developed, or implement another plan that is in the juvenile’s best interests. In its order the court shall include a finding regarding the appropriateness of the programs and services described in the proposal designed to assist the juvenile in acquiring independent living skills. Rules of evidence shall not apply at the dispositional hearing when the court considers the plan that has been presented.

(b) This subdivision applies beginning October 1, 2013. Following an adjudication hearing at which a juvenile is adjudged to be under subdivision (3)(a) or (c) of section 43-247, the court may order the department to prepare and file with the court a proposed plan for the care, placement, services, and permanency which are to be provided to such juvenile and his or her family. The health and safety of the juvenile shall be the paramount concern in the proposed plan. The department shall include in the plan for a juvenile who is sixteen years of age or older and subject to the guardianship of the department a written independent living transition proposal which meets the requirements of section 43-1311.03. The court may approve the plan, modify the plan, order that an alternative plan be developed, or implement another plan that is in the juvenile’s best interests. In its order the court shall include a finding regarding the appropriateness of the programs and services described in the proposal designed to assist the juvenile in acquiring independent living skills. Rules of evidence shall not apply at the dispositional hearing when the court considers the plan that has been presented.

(3) Within thirty days after an order awarding a juvenile to the care of the department, an association, or an individual and until the juvenile reaches the age of majority, the department, association, or individual shall file with the court a report stating the location of the juvenile’s placement and the needs of the juvenile in order to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of section 43-246. The department, association, or individual shall file a report with the court once every six months or at shorter intervals if ordered by the court or deemed appropriate by the department, association, or individual. The department, association, or individual shall file a report and notice of placement change with the court and shall send copies of the notice to all interested parties at least seven days before the placement of the juvenile is changed from what the court originally considered to be a suitable family home or institution to some other custodial situation in order to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of section 43-246. The court, on its own motion or upon the filing of an objection to the change by an interested party, may order a hearing to review such a change in placement and may order that the change be stayed until the completion of the hearing. Nothing in this section shall prevent the court on an ex parte basis from approving an immediate change in placement upon good
cause shown. The department may make an immediate change in placement without court approval only if the juvenile is in a harmful or dangerous situation or when the foster parents request that the juvenile be removed from their home. Approval of the court shall be sought within twenty-four hours after making the change in placement or as soon thereafter as possible. The department shall provide the juvenile’s guardian ad litem with a copy of any report filed with the court by the department pursuant to this subsection.

(4) The court shall also hold a permanency hearing if required under section 43-1312.

(5) When the court awards a juvenile to the care of the department, an association, or an individual, then the department, association, or individual shall have standing as a party to file any pleading or motion, to be heard by the court with regard to such filings, and to be granted any review or relief requested in such filings consistent with the Nebraska Juvenile Code.

(6) Whenever a juvenile is in a foster care placement as defined in section 43-1301, the Foster Care Review Office or the designated local foster care review board may participate in proceedings concerning the juvenile as provided in section 43-1313 and notice shall be given as provided in section 43-1314.

(7) Any written findings or recommendations of the Foster Care Review Office or the designated local foster care review board with regard to a juvenile in a foster care placement submitted to a court having jurisdiction over such juvenile shall be admissible in any proceeding concerning such juvenile if such findings or recommendations have been provided to all other parties of record.

(8) The executive director and any agent or employee of the Foster Care Review Office or any member of any local foster care review board participating in an investigation or making any report pursuant to the Foster Care Review Act or participating in a judicial proceeding pursuant to this section shall be immune from any civil liability that would otherwise be incurred except for false statements negligently made.

Sec. 23. Section 43-286, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-286 (1) When any juvenile is adjudicated to be a juvenile described in subdivision (1), (2), or (4) of section 43-247:

(a) The (a)(i) This subdivision applies until October 1, 2013. The court may continue the dispositional portion of the hearing, from time to time upon such terms and conditions as the court may prescribe, including an order of restitution of any property stolen or damaged or an order requiring the juvenile to participate in community service programs, if such order is in the interest of the juvenile’s reformation or rehabilitation, and, subject to the further order of the court, may:

(i) Place the juvenile on probation subject to the supervision of a probation officer;

(ii) Permit the juvenile to remain in his or her own home or be placed in a suitable family home, subject to the supervision of the probation officer; or

(iii) Cause the juvenile to be placed in a suitable family home or institution, subject to the supervision of the probation officer. If the court has committed the juvenile to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services, the department shall pay the costs of the suitable family home or institution which are not otherwise paid by the juvenile’s parents.

Under subdivision (a)(ii) of this section, upon a determination by the court that there are no parental, private, or other public funds available for the care, custody, and maintenance of a juvenile, the court may order a reasonable sum for the care, custody, and maintenance of the juvenile to be paid out of a fund which shall be appropriated annually by the county where the petition is filed until a suitable provision may be made for the juvenile without such payment. +

(ii) This subdivision applies beginning October 1, 2013. The court may continue the dispositional portion of the hearing, from time to time upon such terms and conditions as the court may prescribe, including an order of restitution of any property stolen or damaged or an order requiring the juvenile to participate in community service programs, if such order is in the interest of the juvenile’s reformation or rehabilitation, and, subject to the further order of the court, may:

(A) Place the juvenile on probation subject to the supervision of a probation officer; or

(B) Permit the juvenile to remain in his or her own home or be placed in a suitable family home or institution, subject to the supervision of
the probation officer.

If the court has placed a juvenile under the supervision of a probation officer, the Office of Probation Administration shall pay the costs of the suitable family home or institution which are not otherwise paid by the juvenile’s parents.

Under subdivision (1)(a)(ii) of this section, upon a determination by the court that there are no public funds available for the care, custody, and maintenance of a juvenile, the court may order a reasonable sum for the care, custody, and maintenance of the juvenile to be paid out of a fund which shall be appropriated annually by the county where the petition is filed until a suitable provision may be made for the juvenile without such payment:

(b)(i) This subdivision applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services prior to July 1, 2013. The court may commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, but a juvenile under the age of fourteen years shall not be placed at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva or the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney unless he or she has violated the terms of probation or has committed an additional offense and the court finds that the interests of the juvenile and the welfare of the community demand his or her commitment. This minimum age provision shall not apply if the act in question is murder or manslaughter.

(b)(ii) The (ii) This subdivision applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center on or after July 1, 2013, unless prohibited by 43-251.01, the court may commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center as a condition of an order of intensive supervised probation if all levels of probation supervision and options for community-based services have been exhausted and placement of such juvenile is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile or the person or property of another or if it appears that such juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court. Intensive supervised probation for purposes of this subdivision means that the Office of Juvenile Services shall be responsible for the care and custody of the juvenile until the Office of Juvenile Services discharges the juvenile. Upon discharge of the juvenile, the court shall hold a review hearing on the conditions of probation and enter any order allowed under subdivision (1)(a) of this section. The Office of Juvenile Services shall work in collaboration with the Office of Probation Administration in developing individualized reentry plans as created in section 54 of this act and shall notify the committing court at least sixty days prior to discharge. The Office of Juvenile Services shall pay the cost of the care and custody of the juvenile from the time of commitment until discharge from the Office of Juvenile Services; or, but a juvenile under the age of fourteen years shall not be placed at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva or the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney unless he or she has violated the terms of probation or has committed an additional offense and the court finds that the interests of the juvenile and the welfare of the community demand his or her commitment. This minimum age provision shall not apply if the act in question is murder or manslaughter.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2013, and until October 1, 2013, the court may commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services for community supervision.

(2) When any juvenile is found by the court to be a juvenile described in subdivision (3)(b) of section 43-247, the court may enter such order as it is empowered to enter under subdivision (1)(a) of this section or until October 1, 2013, enter an order committing or placing the juvenile to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(3) When any juvenile is adjudicated to be a juvenile described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 because of a nonviolent act or acts and the juvenile has not previously been adjudicated to be such a juvenile because of a violent act or acts, the court may, with the agreement of the victim, order the juvenile to attend juvenile offender and victim mediation with a mediator or at an approved center selected from the roster made available pursuant to section 25-2008. private or public funds.

(4) When a juvenile is placed on probation and a probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that such juvenile has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation, a noncriminal violation, or a violation of a condition of his or her probation, the probation officer shall take appropriate measures as provided in section 43-286.01.

(5)(a) When a juvenile is placed on probation or under the supervision of the court and it is alleged that the juvenile is again a juvenile described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247,
a petition may be filed and the same procedure followed and rights given at a hearing on the original petition. If an adjudication is made that the allegations of the petition are true, the court may make any disposition authorized by this section for such adjudications.

(b) When a juvenile is placed on probation or under the supervision of the court for conduct under subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 and it is alleged that the juvenile has violated a term of probation or supervision, or that the juvenile has violated an order of the court, a motion to revoke probation or supervision or to change the disposition may be filed and proceedings held as follows:

(i) The motion shall set forth specific factual allegations of the alleged violations and a copy of such motion shall be served on all persons required to be served by sections 43-262 to 43-267;

(ii) The juvenile shall be entitled to a hearing before the court to determine the validity of the allegations. At such hearing the juvenile shall be entitled to those rights relating to counsel provided by section 43-272 and those rights relating to detention provided by sections 43-254 to 43-256. The juvenile shall also be entitled to speak and present documents, witnesses, or other evidence on his or her own behalf. He or she may confront persons who have given adverse information concerning the alleged violations, may cross-examine such persons, and may show that he or she did not violate the conditions of his or her probation or supervision or an order of the court or, if he or she did, that mitigating circumstances suggest that the violation does not warrant revocation of probation or supervision or a change of disposition. The hearing shall be held within a reasonable time after the juvenile is taken into custody;

(iii) The hearing shall be conducted in an informal manner and shall be flexible enough to consider evidence, including letters, affidavits, and other material, that would not be admissible in an adversarial criminal trial;

(iv) The juvenile shall be given a preliminary hearing in all cases when the juvenile is confined, detained, or otherwise significantly deprived of his or her liberty as a result of his or her alleged violation of probation, supervision, or court order. Such preliminary hearing shall be held before an impartial person other than his or her probation officer or any person directly involved with the case. If, as a result of such preliminary hearing, probable cause is found to exist, the juvenile shall be entitled to a hearing before the court in accordance with this subsection;

(v) If the juvenile is found by the court to have violated the terms of his or her probation or supervision or an order of the court, the court may modify the terms and conditions of the probation, supervision, or other court order, extend the period of probation, supervision, or other court order, or enter any order of disposition that could have been made at the time the original order was entered; and

(vi) In cases when the court revokes probation, supervision, or other court order, it shall enter a written statement as to the evidence relied on and the reasons for revocation.

Sec. 24. Section 43-2-108.05, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-2-108.05 (1) If the court orders the record of a juvenile sealed pursuant to section 43-2-108.04, the court shall:

(a) Order that all records, including any information or other data concerning any proceedings relating to the offense, including the arrest, taking into custody, petition, complaint, indictment, information, trial, hearing, adjudication, correctional supervision, dismissal, or other disposition or sentence, be deemed never to have occurred;

(b) Send notice of the order to seal the record (i) to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, (ii) if the record includes impoundment or prohibition to obtain a license or permit pursuant to section 43-287, to the Department of Motor Vehicles, (iii) if the juvenile whose record has been ordered sealed was a ward of the state at the time the proceeding was initiated or if the Department of Health and Human Services was a party in the proceeding, to such department, and (iv) to law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, and city attorneys referenced in the court record;

(d) If the case was transferred from district court to juvenile court or was transferred under section 43-282, send notice of the order to seal the record to the transferring court; and

(e) Explain to the juvenile what sealing the record means verbally if the juvenile is present in the court at the time the court issues the sealing order or by written notice sent by regular mail to the juvenile's last-known address if the juvenile is not present in the court at the time the
court issues the sealing order.

(2) The effect of having a record sealed under section 43-2,108.04 is that thereafter no person is allowed to release any information concerning such record, except as provided by this section. After a record is sealed, the person whose record was sealed can respond to any public inquiry as if the offense resulting in such record never occurred. A government agency and any other public office or agency shall reply to any public inquiry that no information exists regarding a sealed record. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an order to seal the record applies to every government agency and any other public office or agency that has a record relating to the offense, regardless of whether it receives notice of the hearing on the sealing of the record or a copy of the order. Upon the written request of a person whose record has been sealed and the presentation of a copy of such order, a government agency or any other public office or agency shall seal all records pertaining to the offense.

(3) A sealed record is accessible to law enforcement officers, county attorneys, and city attorneys in the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of crimes, to the sentencing judge in the sentencing of criminal defendants, and to any attorney representing the subject of the sealed record. Inspection of records that have been ordered sealed under section 43-2,108.04 may be made by the following persons or for the following purposes:

(a) By the court or by any person allowed to inspect such records by an order of the court for good cause shown;

(b) By the court, city attorney, or county attorney for purposes of collection of any remaining parental support or obligation balances under section 43-290;

(c) By the Nebraska Probation System for purposes of juvenile intake services, for presentence and other probation investigations, and for the direct supervision of persons placed on probation and by the Department of Correctional Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, a juvenile assessment center, a criminal detention facility, or a juvenile detention facility, or a staff secure juvenile facility, for an individual committed to it, placed with it, or under its care;

(d) By the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of juvenile intake services, the preparation of case plans and reports, the preparation of evaluations, compliance with federal reporting requirements, or the supervision and protection of persons placed with the department or for licensing or certification purposes under sections 71-1901 to 71-1906.01 or the Child Care Licensing Act;

(e) Upon application, by the person who is the subject of the sealed record and by persons authorized by the person who is the subject of the sealed record who are named in that application;

(f) At the request of a party in a civil action that is based on a case that has a sealed record, as needed for the civil action. The party also may copy the sealed record as needed for the civil action. The sealed record shall be used solely in the civil action and is otherwise confidential and subject to this section;

(g) By persons engaged in bona fide research, with the permission of the court, only if the research results in no disclosure of the person’s identity and protects the confidentiality of the sealed record; or

(h) By a law enforcement agency if a person whose record has been sealed applies for employment with the law enforcement agency.

(4) Nothing in this section prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from releasing information from sealed records in the performance of its duties with respect to the supervision and protection of persons served by the department.

(5) In any application for employment, bonding, license, education, or other right or privilege, any appearance as a witness, or any other public inquiry, a person cannot be questioned with respect to any offense for which the record is sealed. If an inquiry is made in violation of this subsection, the person may respond as if the offense never occurred. Applications for employment shall contain specific language that states that the applicant is not obligated to disclose a sealed record. Employers shall not ask if an applicant has had a record sealed. The Department of Labor shall develop a link on the department's web site to inform employers that employers cannot ask if an applicant had a record sealed and that an application for employment shall contain specific language that states that the applicant is not obligated to disclose a sealed record.

(6) Any person who violates this section may be held in contempt of court.

Sec. 25. Section 43-2,129, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

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43-2,129 Sections 43-245 to 43-2,129 and section 8 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Juvenile Code.

Sec. 26. Section 43-404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-404 (1) This subsection applies until July 1, 2014. There is created within the Department of Health and Human Services the Office of Juvenile Services. The office shall have oversight and control of state juvenile correctional facilities and programs other than the secure youth confinement facility which is under the control of the Department of Correctional Services. The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services shall be appointed by the chief executive officer of the department or his or her designee and shall be responsible for the administration of the facilities and programs of the office. The department may contract with a state agency or private provider to operate any facilities and programs of the Office of Juvenile Services.

(2) This subsection applies beginning July 1, 2014. There is created within the Department of Health and Human Services the Office of Juvenile Services. The office shall have oversight and control of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services shall be appointed by the chief executive officer of the department or his or her designee and shall be responsible for the administration of the facilities and programs of the office. The department may contract with a state agency or private provider to operate any facilities and programs of the Office of Juvenile Services.

Sec. 27. Section 43-405, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-405 The administrative duties of the Office of Juvenile Services are to:

(1) Manage, establish policies for, and administer the office, including all facilities and programs operated by the office or provided through the office by contract with a provider;

(2) Supervise employees of the office, including employees of the facilities and programs operated by the office;

(3) Have separate budgeting procedures and develop and report budget information separately from the Department of Health and Human Services;

(4) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the levels of treatment and for management, control, screening, evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation, parole, transfer, and discharge, evaluation until October 1, 2013, and parole until July 1, 2014, of juveniles placed with or committed to the Office of Juvenile Services;

(5) Ensure that statistical information concerning juveniles placed with or committed to facilities or programs of the office is collected, developed, and maintained for purposes of research and the development of treatment programs;

(6) Monitor commitments, placements, and evaluations at facilities and programs operated by the office or through contracts with providers and submit electronically an annual report of its findings to the Legislature. For 2012, 2013, and 2014, the office shall also provide the report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on or before September 15. The report shall include an assessment of the administrative costs of operating the facilities, the cost of programming, the savings realized through reductions in commitments, placements, and evaluations, and information regarding the collaboration required by section 83-101;

(7) Coordinate the programs and services of the juvenile justice system with other governmental agencies and political subdivisions;

(8) Coordinate educational, vocational, and social counseling;

(9) Coordinate Until July 1, 2014, coordinate community-based services for juveniles and their families;

(10) Supervise Until July 1, 2014, supervise and coordinate juvenile parole and aftercare services; and

(11) Exercise all powers and perform all duties necessary to carry out its responsibilities under the Health and Human Services, Office of Juvenile Services Act.

Sec. 28. Section 43-406, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-406 The Office of Juvenile Services shall utilize:

(1) Risk and needs assessment instruments for use in determining the level of treatment for the juvenile;

(2) A case classification process to include levels of treatment defined by rules and regulations and case management standards for each level of treatment. The process shall provide for a balance of accountability, public safety, and treatment;
(3) Case management for all juveniles committed to the office; 
(4) A Until July 1, 2014, a purchase-of-care system which will facilitate the development of a statewide community-based array of care with the involvement of the private sector and the local public sector. Care services may be purchased from private providers to provide a wider diversity of services. This system shall include accessing existing Title IV-E funds of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, medicaid funds, and other funding sources to support eligible community-based services. Such services developed and purchased shall include, but not be limited to, evaluation services. Services shall be offered and delivered on a regional basis; 
(5) Community-based Until October 1, 2013, community-based evaluation programs, supplemented by one or more residential evaluation programs. A residential evaluation program shall be provided in a county containing a city of the metropolitan class. Community-based evaluation services shall replace the residential evaluation services available at the Youth Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Center by December 31, 1999; and 
(6) A management information system. The system shall be a unified, interdepartmental client information system which supports the management function as well as the service function. 
Sec. 29. Section 43-407, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read: 
43-407 (1) This subsection applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement as a youth rehabilitation and treatment program prior to July 1, 2013. The Office of Juvenile Services shall design and make available programs and treatment services through the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva. The programs and treatment services shall be based upon the individual or family evaluation process and treatment plan. The treatment plan shall be developed within fourteen days after admission. If a juvenile placed at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney or Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva is assessed as needing inpatient or outpatient substance abuse or behavioral health residential treatment, the juvenile may be transferred to a program or facility if the treatment and security needs of the juvenile can be met. The assessment process shall include involvement of both private and public sector behavioral health providers. The selection of the treatment venue for each juvenile shall include individualized case planning and incorporate the goals of the juvenile justice system pursuant to section 43-402. Juveniles committed to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney or Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva who are transferred to alternative settings for treatment remain committed to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Services until discharged from such custody. Programs and treatment services shall address: 
(11) (a) Behavioral impairments, severe emotional disturbances, sex offender behaviors, and other mental health or psychiatric disorders; 
(12) (b) Drug and alcohol addiction; 
(13) (c) Health and medical needs; 
(14) (d) Education, special education, and related services; 
(15) (e) Individual, group, and family counseling services as appropriate with any treatment plan related to subdivisions (11) (a) through (14) (d) of this section. Services shall also be made available for juveniles who have been physically or sexually abused; 
(16) (f) A case management and coordination process, designed to assure appropriate reintegration of the juvenile to his or her family, school, and community. This process shall follow individualized planning which shall begin at intake and evaluation. Structured programming shall be scheduled for all juveniles. This programming shall include a strong academic program as well as classes in health education, living skills, vocational training, behavior management and modification, money management, family and parent responsibilities, substance abuse awareness, physical education, job skills training, and job placement assistance. Participation shall be required of all juveniles if such programming is determined to be age and developmentally appropriate. The goal of such structured programming shall be to provide the academic and life skills necessary for a juvenile to successfully return to his or her home and community upon release and 
(17) (g) The design and delivery of treatment programs through the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers as well as any licensing or certification requirements, and the office shall follow the requirements as stated within Title XIX and Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, as such act existed on May 25, 2007, the Special Education Act, or other funding guidelines as appropriate. It is the intent of the Legislature that these funding sources shall be utilized to support service needs of eligible
juveniles.

(2) This subsection applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center on or after July 1, 2013. The Office of Juvenile Services shall design and make available programs and treatment services through the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Grand Island that are based upon the individual or family evaluation process and treatment plan. The treatment plan shall be developed within fourteen days after admission. If a juvenile placed at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney or Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Grand Island is assessed as needing inpatient or subacute substance abuse or behavioral health residential treatment, the Office of Juvenile Services may arrange for such treatment to be provided at the Hastings Regional Center or may transition the juvenile to another inpatient or subacute residential treatment facility in the State of Nebraska. Except in a case requiring emergency admission to an inpatient facility, the juvenile shall not be discharged by the Office of Juvenile Services until the juvenile has been returned to the court for a review of his or her conditions of probation and the juvenile has been transitioned to the clinically appropriate level of care. Programs and treatment services shall address:

(a) Behavioral impairments, severe emotional disturbances, sex offender behaviors, and other mental health or psychiatric disorders;
(b) Drug and alcohol addiction;
(c) Health and medical needs;
(d) Education, special education, and related services;
(e) Individual, group, and family counseling services as appropriate with any treatment plan related to subdivisions (a) through (d) of this subsection. Services shall also be made available for juveniles who have been physically or sexually abused;
(f) A case management and coordination process, designed to assure appropriate reintegration of the juvenile to his or her family, school, and community. This process shall follow individualized planning which shall begin at intake and evaluation. Structured programming shall be scheduled for all juveniles. This programming shall include a strong academic program as well as classes in health education, living skills, vocational training, behavior management and modification, money management, family and parent responsibilities, substance abuse awareness, physical education, job skills training, and job placement assistance. Participation shall be required of all juveniles if such programming is determined to be age and developmentally appropriate. The goal of such structured programming shall be to provide the academic and life skills necessary for a juvenile to successfully return to his or her home and community upon release; and
(g) The design and delivery of treatment programs through the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers as well as any licensing or certification requirements, and the office shall follow the requirements as stated within Title XIX and Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, as such act existed on May 3, 1987 and the other funding guidelines as appropriate. It is the intent of the Legislature that these funding sources shall be utilized to support service needs of eligible juveniles.

Sec. 30. Section 43-408, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-408 (1)(a) This subsection applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013, and to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for community supervision prior to October 1, 2013. Whenever any juvenile is committed under any provision of law to the Office of Juvenile Services, to any facility operated by the Office of Juvenile Services, or to the custody of the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services, a superintendent of a facility, or an administrator of a program, the juvenile is deemed committed to the Office of Juvenile Services. Juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services shall also be considered committed to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of obtaining health care and treatment services.

(b) The committing court shall order the initial level of treatment for a juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services. Prior to determining the initial level of treatment for a juvenile, the court may solicit a recommendation regarding the initial level of treatment from the Office of Juvenile Services. Under this section, subsection, the committing court shall not order a specific placement for a juvenile. The court shall
continue to maintain jurisdiction over any juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services until such time that the juvenile is discharged from the Office of Juvenile Services. The court shall conduct review hearings every six months, or at the request of the juvenile, for any juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services who is placed outside his or her home, except for a juvenile residing at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center. The court shall determine whether an out-of-home placement made by the Office of Juvenile Services is in the best interests of the juvenile, with due consideration being given by the court to public safety. If the court determines that the out-of-home placement is not in the best interests of the juvenile, the court may order other treatment services for the juvenile.

43(c) After the initial level of treatment is ordered by the committing court, the Office of Juvenile Services shall provide treatment services which conform to the court’s level of treatment determination. Within thirty days after making an actual placement, the Office of Juvenile Services shall provide the committing court with written notification of where the juvenile has been placed. At least once every six months thereafter, until the juvenile is discharged from the care and custody of the Office of Juvenile Services, the office shall provide the committing court with written notification of the juvenile’s actual placement and the level of treatment that the juvenile is receiving.

44(d) For transfer hearings, the burden of proof to justify the transfer is on the Office of Juvenile Services, the standard of proof is clear and convincing evidence, and the strict rules of evidence do not apply. Transfers of juveniles from one place of treatment to another are subject to section 43-251.01 and to the following:

44(i) Except as provided in subdivision 44(d)(ii) of this subsection, if the Office of Juvenile Services proposes to transfer the juvenile from a less restrictive to a more restrictive place of treatment, a plan outlining the proposed change and the reasons for the proposed change shall be presented to the court which committed the juvenile. Such change shall occur only after a hearing and a finding by the committing court that the change is in the best interests of the juvenile, with due consideration being given by the court to public safety. At the hearing, the juvenile has the right to be represented by counsel;

44(ii) The Office of Juvenile Services may make an immediate temporary change without prior approval by the committing court only if the juvenile is in a harmful or dangerous situation, is suffering a medical emergency, is exhibiting behavior which warrants temporary removal, or has been placed in a non-state-owned facility and such facility has requested that the juvenile be removed. Approval of the committing court shall be sought within fifteen days of making an immediate temporary change, at which time a hearing shall occur before the court. The court shall determine whether it is in the best interests of the juvenile to remain in the new place of treatment, with due consideration being given by the court to public safety. At the hearing, the juvenile has the right to be represented by counsel; and

44(iii) If the proposed change seeks to transfer the juvenile from a more restrictive place of treatment to a less restrictive place of treatment, the juvenile from the juvenile’s current place of treatment to another which has the same level of restriction as the current place of treatment, the Office of Juvenile Services shall notify the juvenile, the juvenile’s parents, custodian, or legal guardian, the committing court, the county attorney, the counsel for the juvenile, and the guardian ad litem of the proposed change. The juvenile has fifteen days after the date of the notice to request an administrative hearing with the Office of Juvenile Services, at which time the Office of Juvenile Services shall determine whether it is in the best interests of the juvenile for the proposed change to occur, with due consideration being given by the office to public safety. The juvenile may be represented by counsel at the juvenile’s own expense. If the juvenile is aggrieved by the administrative decision of the Office of Juvenile Services, the juvenile may appeal that decision to the committing court within fifteen days after the Office of Juvenile Services’ decision. At the hearing before the committing court, the juvenile has the right to be represented by counsel. If a juvenile is placed in detention after the initial level of treatment is determined by the committing court, the committing court shall hold a hearing every fourteen days to review the status of the juvenile. Placement of a juvenile in detention shall not be considered as a treatment service.

44(f) The committing court’s review of a change of place of treatment pursuant to this section subsection does not apply to parole revocation hearings.

2(a) This subsection applies to all juveniles committed to the
Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center on or after July 1, 2013. Whenever any juvenile is committed to the Office of Juvenile Services, the juvenile shall also be considered committed to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of obtaining health care and treatment services.

(b) The committing court shall order placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center for a juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services. The court shall continue to maintain jurisdiction over any juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for the purpose of reviewing the juvenile’s probation upon discharge from the care and custody of the Office of Juvenile Services.

(c) If a juvenile is placed in detention while awaiting placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center and the placement has not occurred within fourteen days, the committing court shall hold a hearing every fourteen days to review the status of the juvenile. Placement of a juvenile in detention shall not be considered a treatment service.

Sec. 31. Section 43-410, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-410 (1) This subsection applies until July 1, 2014. Any peace officer, juvenile parole officer, or direct care staff member of the Office of Juvenile Services has the authority to apprehend and detain a juvenile who has absconded or is attempting to abscond from a placement for evaluation or commitment to the Office of Juvenile Services and shall cause the juvenile to be returned to the facility or an appropriate juvenile detention facility or staff secure juvenile facility. For purposes of this section, subsection, direct care staff member means any staff member charged with the day-to-day care and supervision of juveniles housed at a facility or program operated directly by the office or security staff who has received training in apprehension techniques and procedures.

(2)(a) This subsection applies beginning July 1, 2014. Any peace officer or direct care staff member of the Office of Juvenile Services has the authority to apprehend and detain a juvenile who has absconded or is attempting to abscond from commitment to the Office of Juvenile Services and shall cause the juvenile to be returned to the youth rehabilitation and treatment center or an appropriate juvenile detention facility or staff secure juvenile facility.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, direct care staff member means any staff member charged with the day-to-day care and supervision of juveniles at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center or security staff who has received training in apprehension techniques and procedures.

Sec. 32. Section 43-412, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-412 (1) Every juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services pursuant to the Nebraska Juvenile Code or pursuant to subsection (3) of section 29-2204 shall remain committed until he or she attains the age of nineteen or is legally discharged.

(2) The Upon attainment of the age of nineteen or absent a continuing order of intensive supervised probation, discharge of any juvenile pursuant to the rules and regulations or upon his or her attainment of the age of nineteen shall be a complete release from all penalties incurred by conviction or adjudication of the offense for which he or she was committed.

(3) The Office of Juvenile Services shall provide the committing court, Office of Probation Administration, county attorney, defense attorney, if any, and guardian ad litem, if any, with written notification of the juvenile’s discharge within thirty days of prior to a juvenile being discharged from the care and custody of the office.

Sec. 33. Section 43-413, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-413 (1) This section applies to all juveniles placed with the Office of Juvenile Services for evaluation prior to October 1, 2013. A court may, pursuant to section 43-281, place a juvenile with the Office of Juvenile Services or the Department of Health and Human Services for an evaluation to aid the court in the disposition.

(2) A juvenile convicted as an adult shall be placed with the Office of Juvenile Services for evaluation prior to sentencing as provided by subsection (3) of section 29-2204.

(3) All juveniles shall be evaluated prior to commitment to the Office of Juvenile Services unless the court finds that (a) there has been a substantially equivalent evaluation within the last twelve months that makes reevaluation unnecessary or (b) an addendum to a previous evaluation rather than a reevaluation would be appropriate. The court shall not commit such juvenile to the temporary custody of the Office of Juvenile Services prior to
disposition. The office may place a juvenile in residential or nonresidential community-based evaluation services for purposes of evaluation to assist the court in determining the initial level of treatment for the juvenile.

(4) During any period of detention or evaluation prior to disposition:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (4)(b) of this section, the county in which the case is pending is responsible for all detention costs incurred before and after an evaluation period prior to disposition, the cost of delivering the juvenile to the facility or institution for an evaluation, and the cost of returning the juvenile to the court for disposition; and

(b) The state is responsible for (i) the costs incurred during an evaluation unless otherwise ordered by the court pursuant to section 43-290 and (ii) the preevaluation detention costs for any days over the first ten days from the date the evaluation is ordered by the court.

(5) The Office of Juvenile Services and the Department of Health and Human Services are not responsible for predisposition costs except as provided in subdivision (4)(b) of this section.

Sec. 34. Section 43-414, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-414 This section applies to all juveniles placed with the Office of Juvenile Services for evaluation prior to October 1, 2013. Each juvenile placed for evaluation with the Office of Juvenile Services shall be subjected to medical examination and evaluation as directed by the office.

Sec. 35. Section 43-415, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-415 This section applies to all juveniles placed with the Office of Juvenile Services for evaluation prior to October 1, 2013. A juvenile placed for evaluation with the Office of Juvenile Services shall be returned to the court upon the completion of the evaluation or at the end of thirty days, whichever comes first. When the office finds that an extension of the thirty-day period is necessary to complete the evaluation, the court may order an extension not to exceed an additional thirty days. The court shall hold a hearing within ten days after the evaluation is completed and returned to the court by the office.

Sec. 36. Section 43-416, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-416 This section applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. This section shall not apply after June 30, 2014. The Office of Juvenile Services shall have administrative authority over the parole function for juveniles committed to a youth rehabilitation and treatment center and may (1) determine the time of release on parole of committed juveniles eligible for such release, (2) fix the conditions of parole, revoke parole, issue or authorize the issuance of detainers for the apprehension and detention of parole violators, and impose other sanctions short of revocation for violation of conditions of parole, and (3) determine the time of discharge from parole. The office shall provide the committing court with written notification of the juvenile’s discharge from parole within thirty days of a juvenile being discharged from the supervision of the office.

Sec. 37. Section 43-417, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-417 (1) This subsection applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. In administering juvenile parole, the Office of Juvenile Services shall consider whether (4) (a) the juvenile has completed the goals of his or her individual treatment plan or received maximum benefit from institutional treatment, (b) the juvenile would benefit from continued services under community supervision, (c) the juvenile can function in a community setting, (d) there is reason to believe that the juvenile will not commit further violations of law, and (e) there is reason to believe that the juvenile will comply with the conditions of parole.

(2) This subsection applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center on or after July 1, 2013. In determining whether to discharge a juvenile from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center, the Office of Juvenile Services shall consider whether (a) the juvenile has completed the goals of his or her individual treatment plan or received maximum benefit from institutional treatment, (b) the juvenile would benefit from continued services under community supervision, (c) the juvenile can function in a community setting, (d) there is reason to believe that the juvenile will not commit further violations of law, and (e) there is reason to believe that the
juvenile will comply with the conditions of probation.

Sec. 38. Section 43-418, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-418 (1) This section applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. Any juvenile parole officer or peace officer may apprehend and detain a juvenile who is on parole if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that a juvenile has violated or is about to violate a condition of his or her parole and that the juvenile will attempt to leave the jurisdiction or will place lives or property in danger unless the juvenile is detained. A juvenile parole officer may call upon a peace officer to assist him or her in apprehending and detaining a juvenile pursuant to this section. Such juvenile may be held in an appropriate juvenile facility pending hearing on the allegations.

(2) Juvenile parole officers may search for and seize contraband and evidence related to possible parole violations by a juvenile.

(3) Whether or not a juvenile is apprehended and detained by a juvenile parole officer or peace officer, if there is reason to believe that a juvenile has violated a condition of his or her parole, the Office of Juvenile Services may issue the juvenile written notice of the alleged parole violations and notice of a hearing on the alleged parole violations.

Sec. 39. Section 43-419, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-419 (1) This section applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. When a juvenile is apprehended and detained for an alleged violation of juvenile parole, he or she shall have a preliminary hearing as soon as practicable and no later than within seventy-two hours of being apprehended and detained. An impartial hearing officer shall conduct the preliminary hearing. The impartial hearing officer shall not be the juvenile parole officer alleging the violation of parole or a witness to the alleged violation. The impartial hearing officer may be an employee of the Office of Juvenile Services, including a supervisor or a juvenile parole officer, other than the parole officer filing the allegations.

(2) The juvenile parolee shall receive notice of the preliminary hearing, its purpose, and the alleged violations prior to the commencement of the hearing. The juvenile parolee may present relevant information, question adverse witnesses, and make a statement regarding the alleged parole violations. The rules of evidence shall not apply at such hearings and the hearing officer may rely upon any available information.

(3) The hearing officer shall determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the juvenile has violated a term or condition of his or her parole and shall issue that decision in writing. The decision shall either indicate there is not probable cause to believe that the juvenile parolee has violated the terms of his or her parole and dismiss the allegations and return the juvenile to parole supervision, or it shall indicate there is probable cause to believe that the juvenile has violated a condition of parole and shall be held pending the revocation hearing. The preliminary hearing officer shall consider the seriousness of the alleged violation, the public safety, and the best interests of the juvenile in determining where the juvenile shall be held pending the revocation hearing.

Sec. 40. Section 43-420, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-420 (1) This subsection applies until July 1, 2013. Any hearing required or permitted for juveniles in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Services, except a preliminary parole revocation hearing, shall be conducted by a hearing officer who is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nebraska and may be an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services or an attorney who is an independent contractor. If the hearing officer is an employee of the department, he or she shall not be assigned to any duties requiring him or her to give ongoing legal advice to any person employed by or who is a contractor with the office.

(2) This subsection applies beginning July 1, 2013. Any hearing required or permitted for juveniles in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Services shall be conducted by a hearing officer who is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nebraska and may be an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services or an attorney who is an independent contractor. If the hearing officer is an employee of the department, he or she shall not be assigned to any duties requiring him or her to give ongoing legal advice to any person employed by or who is a contractor with the office.

Sec. 41. Section 43-421, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
43-421 This section applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. When a juvenile is charged with being in violation of a condition of his or her parole, the juvenile is entitled to:

(1) Notice of the alleged violations of parole at least twenty-four hours prior to a hearing on the allegations. Such notice shall contain a concise statement of the purpose of the hearing and the factual allegations upon which evidence will be offered;

(2) A prompt hearing, within fourteen days after the preliminary hearing, if the juvenile is being held pending the hearing;

(3) Reasonable continuances granted by the hearing officer for the juvenile to prepare for the hearing;

(4) Have his or her parents notified of the hearing and allegations and have his or her parents attend the hearing;

(5) Be represented by legal counsel at the expense of the Department of Health and Human Services unless retained legal counsel is available to the juvenile. The department may contract with attorneys to provide such representation to juveniles charged with parole violations;

(6) Compel witnesses to attend, testify on his or her own behalf, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses against him or her; and

(7) Present a statement on his or her own behalf.

Sec. 42. Section 43-422, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-422 This section applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. After receiving notice of the allegations of a violation of parole, being notified of the possible consequences, being informed of his or her rights pertaining to the hearing, and having an opportunity to confer with his or her parents or precommitment custodian and legal counsel, if desired, the juvenile may waive his or her right to a hearing and admit to the allegations. Such waiver and admission shall be in writing and submitted, together with a recommended disposition by the hearing officer, to the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services or his or her designee.

Sec. 43. Section 43-423, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-423 This section applies to all juveniles committed to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center prior to July 1, 2013. At the parole violation hearing, the hearing officer shall again advise the juvenile of his or her rights and ensure that the juvenile has received the notice of allegations and the possible consequences. Strict rules of evidence shall not be applied. The hearing officer shall determine whether the detention of the juvenile or other restrictions are necessary for the safety of the juvenile or for the public safety and shall indicate to what extent the juvenile will continue to be detained or restricted pending a final decision and administrative appeal. The hearing officer shall issue a written recommended disposition to the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services or his or her designee who shall promptly affirm, modify, or reverse the recommended disposition. The final decision of the administrator or his or her designee may be appealed pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. The Department of Health and Human Services shall be deemed to have acted within its jurisdiction if its action is in the best interests of the juvenile with due consideration being given to public safety. The appeal shall in all other respects be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sec. 44. Section 43-1411.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1411.01 (1) An action for paternity or parental support under sections 43-1401 to 43-1418 may be initiated by filing a complaint with the clerk of the district court as provided in section 25-2740. Such proceeding may be heard by the county court or the district court as provided in section 25-2740. A paternity determination under sections 43-1411 to 43-1418 may also be decided in a county court or separate juvenile court if the county court or separate juvenile court already has jurisdiction over the child whose paternity is to be determined.

(2) Whenever termination of parental rights is placed in issue in any case arising under sections 43-1401 to 43-1418, subsection (5) of section 42-364 the Nebraska Juvenile Code and the Parenting Act shall apply to such proceedings.

Sec. 45. Section 43-2402, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-2402 For purposes of the Juvenile Services Act:
(1) Coalition means the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice established pursuant to section 43-2411;
(2) Commission means the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice;
(3) Commission Grant Program means grants provided to eligible applicants under section 43-2406;
(4) County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program means aid to counties and federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribes provided under section 43-2404.02;
(5) Eligible applicant means a community-based agency or organization, political subdivision, school district, federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribe, or state agency necessary to comply with the federal act;
(7) Juvenile means a person who is under eighteen years of age; and
(8) Office of Juvenile Services means the Office of Juvenile Services created in section 43-404.
Sec. 46. Section 43-2404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
43-2404 The coalition shall make award recommendations to the commission, at least annually, in accordance with the Juvenile Services Act and the standards established for grants made under the Commission Grant Program. Such grants shall be used to assist communities in the implementation and operation of programs or services identified in their applicable comprehensive juvenile services plan, to include: Programs for local planning and service coordination; screening, assessment, and evaluation; diversion; alternatives to detention; family support services; treatment services; reentry services; truancy prevention and intervention programs; and other services documented by data that will positively impact juveniles and families in the juvenile justice system, including, but not limited to, programs for assessment and evaluation, the prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, detention, shelter care, intensive juvenile probation services, restitution, family support services, and community centers for the care and treatment of juveniles in need of services.
Sec. 47. Section 43-2404.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
43-2404.01 (1) To be eligible for participation in either the Commission Grant Program or the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, counties shall develop and adopt a comprehensive juvenile services plan and submit such plan shall be developed, adopted, and submitted to the commission in accordance with the federal act and rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission in consultation with the Office of Juvenile Services. Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs, the Office of Probation Administration, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute. Such plan may be developed by eligible applicants for the Commission Grant Program and by individual counties, or by multiple counties, by federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribes, or by any combination of the three for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. Comprehensive juvenile services plans shall:
   (a) Be developed by a comprehensive community team representing juvenile justice system stakeholders;
   (b) Be based on data relevant to juvenile and family issues;
   (c) Identify policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes;
   (d) Identify clear implementation strategies; and
   (e) Identify how the impact of the program or service will be measured.
(2) Any portion of the comprehensive juvenile services plan dealing with administration, procedures, and programs of the juvenile court shall not be submitted to the commission without the concurrence of the presiding judge or judges of the court or courts having jurisdiction in juvenile cases for the geographic area to be served. Programs or services established by such plans shall conform to the family policy tenets prescribed in sections 43-532 to 43-534 and shall include policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes.
(3) The commission, in consultation with the Office of Juvenile Services and the coalition, shall develop or University of Nebraska at
Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, shall contract for the development and administration of a statewide system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from—(a) the Commission Grant Program and (b) the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program in preventing persons from entering the juvenile justice system and in rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

(4) There is established within the commission the position of Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, appointed by the executive director of the commission. The director shall have extensive experience in developing and providing community-based services.

(5) The director shall be supervised by the executive director of the commission. The director shall:

(a) Provide technical assistance and guidance for the development of comprehensive juvenile services plans;

(b) Coordinate the review of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program application as provided in section 43-2404.02 and make recommendations for the distribution of funds provided under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, giving priority to those grant applications funding programs and services that will divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system, impact and effectively treat juveniles within the juvenile justice system, and reduce the juvenile detention population or assist juveniles in transitioning from out-of-home placements to in-home treatments. The director shall ensure that no funds appropriated or distributed under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program are used for purposes prohibited under subsection (3) of section 43-2404.02;

(c) Develop data collection and evaluation protocols, oversee statewide data collection, and generate an annual report on the effectiveness of juvenile services that receive funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program;

(d) Develop relationships and collaborate with juvenile justice system stakeholders, provide education and training as necessary, and serve on boards and committees when approved by the commission;

(e) Assist juvenile justice system stakeholders in developing policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes;

(f) Develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the coalition to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program; and

(g) Work with the coordinator for the coalition in facilitating the coalition’s obligations under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

Sec. 48. Section 43-2404.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-2404.02 (1) There is created a separate and distinct budgetary program to be known as the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. Funding acquired from participation in the federal act, state General Funds, and funding acquired from other sources which may be used for purposes consistent with the Juvenile Services Act and the federal act shall be used to aid counties in the establishment and provision of community-based services for accused and adjudicated juvenile offenders and to increase capacity for community-based services to juveniles who come in contact with the juvenile justice system.

(2) The annual General Fund appropriation to the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall be apportioned to the counties as aid in accordance with a formula established in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission. The formula shall be based on the total number of residents per county and federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribe who are twelve years of age through eighteen years of age and other relevant factors as determined by the commission. The commission may require a local match of up to forty percent from counties in the county, multiple counties, federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribe or tribes, or any combination of the three which is receiving aid under such program. Any local expenditures for community-based programs for juveniles may be applied toward such match requirement.

(3) Funds provided to counties under the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall be used exclusively to assist counties in the implementation and operation of programs or the provision of services identified in their aid recipient’s comprehensive juvenile services plan, including, but not limited to, programs for
assessment and evaluation, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, shelter care, intensive juvenile probation services, restitution, family support services, and family group conferencing. Local planning and service coordination; screening, assessment, and evaluation; diversion; alternatives to detention; family support services; treatment services; reentry services; truancy prevention and intervention programs; and other services that will positively affect juveniles and families in the juvenile justice system. In distributing funds provided under the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, counties aid recipients shall prioritize programs and services that will reduce the juvenile detention population, divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system, reduce the population of juveniles in juvenile detention and secure confinement, and assist in transitioning juveniles from out-of-home placements. No funds appropriated or distributed under the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall be used for construction of secure detention facilities, secure youth treatment facilities, or secure youth confinement facilities. Aid received under this section shall not be used for capital construction or the lease or acquisition of facilities except for additional probation offices associated with carrying out the expanded probation duties in this legislative bill and shall not be used to replace existing funding for programs or services. Any funds not distributed to counties under this subsection shall be retained by the commission to be distributed on a competitive basis under the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program for a county, multiple counties, federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribes, or any combination of the three demonstrating additional need in the funding areas identified in this subsection.

(4) Any county receiving recipient of funding under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall file an annual report as required by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the type of juvenile service, how the service met the goals of the comprehensive juvenile services plan, demographic information on the total number of juveniles served, the units of service provided, a listing of the county’s annual juvenile justice budgeted and actual expenditures, program success rates, the total number of juveniles sent to secure juvenile detention or residential treatment and secure confinement, and a listing of the expenditures for detention, residential treatment, and nonresidential treatment.

(5) The commission shall report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the distribution and use of funds appropriated under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, an aggregate report of the use of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program funds, including the types of juvenile services and programs that were funded, demographic information on the total number of juveniles served, program success rates, the total number of juveniles sent to secure juvenile detention or residential treatment and secure confinement, and a listing of the expenditures of all counties and federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribes for detention, residential treatment, and secure confinement. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

(6) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section. For the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program in consultation with the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs, the Office of Probation Administration, the Nebraska Association of County Officials, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute. The rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) The required elements of a comprehensive juvenile services plan and planning process;
(b) The Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program formula, review process, match requirements, and fund distribution. The distribution process shall ensure a conflict of interest policy;
(c) A distribution process for funds retained under subsection (3) of this section;
(d) A plan for evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funding; juveniles and families in the juvenile justice system;
(e) A reporting process for aid recipients; and
(f) A reporting process for the commission to the Governor and Legislature. The report shall be made electronically to the Governor and the Legislature.

Sec. 49. Section 43-2411, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-2411 (1) The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice is created. As provided in the federal act, there shall be no less than fifteen nor
more than thirty-three members of the coalition. Coalition members who are members of the judicial branch of government shall be nonvoting members of the coalition. The coalition members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall include:

(a) The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services;
(b) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee;
(c) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
(d) The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice or his or her designee;
(e) The Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials or his or her designee;
(f) The probation administrator of the Office of Probation Administration or his or her designee;
(g) One county commissioner or supervisor;
(h) One person with data analysis experience;
(i) One police chief;
(j) One sheriff;
(k) The executive director of the Foster Care Review Office;
(l) One separate juvenile court judge;
(m) One county court judge;
(n) One representative of mental health professionals who works directly with juveniles;
(o) Three representatives, one from each congressional district, from community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families;
(p) One volunteer who works with juvenile offenders or potential juvenile offenders;
(q) One person who works with an alternative to incarceration a detention program for juveniles;
(r) The director or his or her designee from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center;
(s) The director or his or her designee from a secure youth confinement juvenile detention facility;
(t) The director or his or her designee from a staff secure youth confinement facility;
(u) At least five members who are under twenty-four years of age when appointed;
(v) One person who works directly with juveniles who have learning or emotional difficulties or are abused or neglected;
(w) One member of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice;
(x) One member of a regional behavioral health authority established under section 71-808;

(y) One county attorney; and
(z) One public defender.

(2) The terms of members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1)(g) through (1)(w) of section 43-2412 of this section shall be three years, except that the terms of the initial appointments of members of the coalition shall be staggered so that one-third of the members are appointed for terms of one year, one-third for terms of two years, and one-third for terms of three years, as determined by the Governor. A majority of the coalition members, including the chairperson, shall not be full-time employees of federal, state, or local government. At least one-fifth of the coalition members shall be under the age of twenty-four at the time of appointment. Any vacancy on the coalition shall be filled by appointment by the Governor. The coalition shall select a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and such other officers as it deems necessary.

(3) Members of the coalition shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses pursuant to sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(4) The coalition may appoint task forces or subcommittees to carry out its work. Task force and subcommittee members shall have knowledge of, responsibility for, or interest in an area related to the duties of the coalition.

Sec. 50. Section 43-2412, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
43-2412 (1) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Juvenile Services Act and the federal act, the coalition shall:
(a) Make recommendations to the commission on the awarding of grants under the Commission Grant Program to eligible applicants;
(b) Identify juvenile justice issues, share information, and monitor and evaluate programs in the juvenile justice system;
(c) Recommend guidelines and supervision procedures to the Office of Juvenile Services to be used to develop or expand local diversion programs for juveniles from the juvenile justice system;
(d) Prepare an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, the Office of Probation Administration, and the Office of Juvenile Services including recommendations on administrative and legislative actions which would improve the juvenile justice system. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically;
(e) Ensure widespread citizen involvement in all phases of its work;
and
(f) Meet at least four times each year.
(2) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the acts and within the limits of available time and appropriations, the coalition may:
(a) Recommend criteria to the Office of Juvenile Services for administrative procedures, including, but not limited to, procedures for intake, detention, petition filing, and probation supervision;
(b) Recommend to the Office of Juvenile Services minimum professional standards, including requirements for continuing professional training, for employees of community-based, youth-serving agencies;
(c) Recommend to the Office of Juvenile Services curricula for and cause to have conducted training sessions for juvenile court judges and employees of other community-based, youth-serving agencies;
(d) (a) Assist and advise state and local agencies in the establishment of volunteer training programs and the utilization of volunteers;
(b) Apply for and receive funds from federal and private sources for carrying out its powers and duties; and
(c) Provide technical assistance to eligible applicants.
(3) In formulating, adopting, and promulgating the standards, recommendations, and guidelines provided for in this section, the coalition shall consider the differences among counties in population, in geography, and in the availability of local resources.
Sec. 51. Section 43-2930, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
43-2930 (1) Each party to a contested proceeding for a temporary order relating to parenting functions or custody, parenting time, visitation, or other access shall offer a child information affidavit as an exhibit at the hearing before the court. The child information affidavit shall be verified to the extent known or reasonably discoverable by the filing party or parties and may include the following:
(a) The name, address, and length of residence with any adults with whom each child has lived for the preceding twelve months; except that the address shall only include the county and state for a parent who is living in an undisclosed location because of safety concerns;
(b) The performance by each parent or person acting as parent for the preceding twelve months of the parenting functions relating to the daily needs of the child;
(c) A description of the work and child care schedules for the preceding twelve months of any person seeking custody, parenting time, visitation, or other access and any expected changes to these schedules in the near future;
(d) A description of the current proposed work and child care schedules; and
(e) A description of the child’s school and extracurricular activities, including who is responsible for transportation of the child.
The child information affidavit may also state any circumstances of child abuse or neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse, or unresolved parental conflict that are likely to pose a risk to the child and that warrant limitation on the award of temporary custody, parenting time, visitation, or other access to the child pending entry of a permanent parenting plan, including any restraining orders, protection orders, or criminal no-contact orders against either parent or a person acting as a parent by case number and jurisdiction.
(2) After a contested hearing by live testimony or affidavit, the court shall enter a temporary parenting order that includes:
(a) Provision for temporary legal custody;
(b) Provisions for temporary physical custody, which shall include either:
(i) A parenting time, visitation, or other access schedule that designates in which home each child will reside on given days of the year; or
(ii) A formula or method for determining such a schedule in sufficient detail that, if necessary, the schedule can be enforced in
subsequent proceedings by the court;
(c) Designation of a temporary residence for the child;
(d) Reference to any existing restraining orders, protection orders, or criminal no-contact orders as well as provisions for safety and a transition plan, consistent with any court’s finding of child abuse or neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse, or unresolved parental conflict in order to provide for the safety of a child and custodial a parent who has physical custody of the child necessary for the best interests of the child; and
(e) If appropriate, a requirement that a parent complete a program of intervention for perpetrators of domestic violence, a program for drug or alcohol abuse, or a program designed to correct another factor as a condition of parenting time.
(3) A party may move for an order to show cause, and the court may enter a modified temporary parenting order.
(4) The State Court Administrator’s office shall create a form that may be used by the parties to create a child information affidavit setting forth the elements identified in this section.
(5) Provisions for temporary support for the child and other financial matters may be included in the temporary parenting order.

Sec. 52. Section 43-3503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
43-3503 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage counties to develop a continuum of nonsecure detention services for the purpose of enhancing, developing, and expanding the availability of such services to juveniles requiring nonsecure detention.
(2) A county may enhance, develop, or expand nonsecure detention services as needed with private or public providers. Grants from the Commission Grant Program and aid from the County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program under the Juvenile Services Act and the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 may be used to fund nonsecure detention services. Each county shall routinely review services provided by contract providers and modify services as needed.

Sec. 53. (1) There is established within the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice the position of Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs to be appointed by the executive director of the commission.
(2) The Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs shall be supervised by the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. The director shall be responsible for fostering, promoting, researching, and assessing juvenile pretrial diversion programs and developing new programs in collaboration with cities and counties pursuant to sections 43-260.02 to 43-260.07. The director shall:
(a) Provide technical assistance and guidance to juvenile pretrial diversion programs for implementing evidence-based strategies or standardized, replicable practices that have been researched and have demonstrated positive outcomes;
(b) Develop a core juvenile pretrial diversion program packet for utilization by counties without a juvenile pretrial diversion program or counties without a district probation officer acting under section 29-2258;
(c) Establish baseline program guidelines for juvenile pretrial diversion programs grounded in best-practice research, develop data collection and evaluation protocols, oversee statewide data collection, and generate an annual report on juvenile pretrial diversion programs;
(d) Develop relationships and collaborate with juvenile justice stakeholders involved in juvenile pretrial diversion programs, provide education and training as necessary, and serve on boards and committees when approved by the commission;
(e) Facilitate consistent communication and information-sharing among juvenile pretrial diversion program directors;
(f) Assist juvenile pretrial diversion program directors, county attorneys, district probation officers acting under section 29-2258, and county boards in developing policies and practices that achieve the goals of juvenile pretrial diversion programs;
(g) Assist in comprehensive community planning efforts as they relate to development of juvenile pretrial diversion programs;
(h) Develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program; and
(i) Assist the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services
Aid Program created under section 43-2404.01 in the review of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program applications as provided in section 43-2404.02.

Sec. 54. (1) The Community and Family Reentry Process is hereby created. This process is created in order to reduce recidivism and promote safe and effective reentry for the juvenile and his or her family to the community from the juvenile justice system. This process applies to all juveniles referred to the Office of Juvenile Services for placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) While a juvenile is committed to a youth rehabilitation and treatment center, family team meetings shall be conducted in person or via videoconferencing at least once per month with the juvenile’s support system to discuss the juvenile’s transition back to the community. A juvenile’s support system should be made up of any of the following: The juvenile himself or herself, any immediate family members or guardians, informal and formal supports, the juvenile’s probation officer, Office of Juvenile Services personnel employed by the facility, and any additional personnel as appropriate. Once developed, individualized reentry plans should be discussed at the family team meetings with the juvenile and other members of the juvenile’s support system and shall include discussions on the juvenile’s placement after leaving the facility. The probation officer and the Office of Juvenile Services personnel should discuss progress and needs of the juvenile and should help the juvenile follow his or her individual reentry plan to help with his or her transition back to the community.

(3) Prior to discharge from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center, or as soon as possible if the juvenile’s remaining time at the youth rehabilitation and treatment center is less than sixty days, an evidence-based risk screening and needs assessment should be conducted on the juvenile in order to determine the juvenile’s risk of reoffending and the juvenile’s individual needs upon reentering the community.

(4) Individualized reentry plans shall be developed with input from the juvenile and his or her support system in conjunction with a risk assessment process. Individualized reentry plans shall be finalized thirty days prior to the juvenile leaving the youth rehabilitation and treatment center or as soon as possible if the juvenile’s remaining time at the center is less than thirty days. Individualized reentry plans should include specifics about the juvenile’s placement upon return to the community, an education transition plan, a treatment plan with any necessary appointments being set prior to the juvenile leaving the center, and any other formal and informal supports for the juvenile and his or her family. The district probation officer and Office of Juvenile Services personnel shall review the individualized reentry plan and the expected outcomes as a result of the plan with the juvenile and his or her support system within thirty days prior to the juvenile’s discharge from the center.

(5) The probation officer shall have contact with the juvenile and the juvenile’s support system within forty-eight hours after the juvenile returns to the community and continue to assist the juvenile and the juvenile’s support system in implementing and following the individualized reentry plan and monitoring the juvenile’s risk through ongoing assessment updates.

(6) The Office of Probation Administration shall establish an evidence-based reentry process that utilizes risk assessment to determine the juvenile’s supervision level upon return to the community. They shall establish supervision strategies based on risk levels of the juvenile and supervise accordingly, with ongoing reassessment to assist in determining eligibility for release from probation. The Office of Probation Administration shall develop a formal matrix of graduated sanctions to be utilized prior to requesting the county attorney to file for probation revocation. The Office of Probation Administration shall provide training to its workers on risk-based supervision strategies, motivational interviewing, family engagement, community-based resources, and other evidence-based reentry strategies.

Sec. 55. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project, established as a pilot program under section 43-4201 within the Office of Probation Administration, be expanded statewide in a three-step, phase-in process beginning July 1, 2013, with full implementation by July 1, 2014. The expansion of the project will result in the Office of Probation Administration taking over the duties of the Office of Juvenile Services with respect to its previous functions of community supervision and parole of juvenile law violators and of evaluations for such juveniles. The Office of Juvenile Services shall continue for the purpose of operating the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers and the care and custody of the juveniles placed at such centers. Expansion of the
project shall be funded by the transfer of funds from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Services used to fully fund community-based services and juvenile parole to the Office of Probation Administration.

(2) There shall be established through the use of technology an information-sharing process to support and enhance the exchange of information between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Probation Administration, and the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Office of Probation Administration to facilitate the information-sharing process.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature that detention costs for a juvenile shall be paid by the county containing the court which issued the order to detain in the following situations:
   (a) A juvenile has no prior contact with the juvenile justice system and is placed in predisposition detention; or
   (b) A juvenile is placed in predisposition detention for a new violation of law while under the supervision of the Office of Probation Administration.

(4) It is the intent of the Legislature that detention costs for a juvenile shall be paid by the Office of Probation Administration in the following situations:
   (a) A juvenile is placed in detention as the result of an alleged violation of probation; or
   (b) A juvenile is placed in post-disposition detention under the supervision of the Office of Probation Administration while awaiting placement.

(5) For purposes of this section, detention means a secure juvenile detention facility or staff secure juvenile facility.

Sec. 56. Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children’s Commission shall work with administrators from each of the service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116, the teams created pursuant to section 28-728, local foster care review boards, child advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court’s Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks in each of such service areas. Such networks shall permit collaboration to strengthen the continuum of services available to child welfare agencies and to provide resources for children and juveniles outside the child protection system. Each service area shall develop its own unique strategies to be included in the statewide strategic plan. The Department of Health and Human Services shall assist in identifying the needs of each service area.

(2) (a) The commission shall create a committee to examine state policy regarding the prescription of psychotropic drugs for children who are wards of the state and the administration of such drugs to such children. Such committee shall review the policy and procedures for prescribing and administering such drugs and make recommendations to the commission for changes in such policy and procedures.
   (b) The commission shall create a committee to examine the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services as they exist on April 12, 2012. Such committee shall review the role and effectiveness of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers in the juvenile justice system and make recommendations to the commission on the future role of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers in the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what populations they should serve and what treatment services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in secure residential placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Health Policy, the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. If the committee’s recommendations include maintaining the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney, the recommendation shall include a plan to implement a rehabilitation and treatment model by upgrading the center’s physical structure, staff, and staff training and the incorporation of evidence-based treatments and programs. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and electronically.
to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature by December 1, 2013. Such committee shall also review the responsibilities of the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services, including oversight of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers and juvenile parole, and make recommendations to the commission relating to the future responsibilities of the administrator.

(c) The commission may organize committees as it deems necessary. Members of the committees may be members of the commission or may be appointed with the approval of the majority of the commission, from individuals with knowledge of the committee’s subject matter, professional expertise to assist the committee in completing its assigned responsibilities, and the ability to collaborate within the committee and with the commission to carry out the powers and duties of the commission.

(d) If the One Hundred Second Legislature, Second Session, 2012, creates the Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee or and the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, or both, such committees shall be are under the jurisdiction of the commission.

(3) The commission shall work with the office of the State Court Administrator, as appropriate, and entities which coordinate facilitated conferencing as described in section 43-247.01. Facilitated conferencing shall be included in statewide strategic plan discussions by the commission. Facilitated conferencing shall continue to be utilized and maximized, as determined by the court of jurisdiction, during the development of the statewide strategic plan. Funding and contracting of facilitated conferencing entities shall continue to be provided by the Department of Health and Human Services to at least the same extent as such funding and contracting are being provided on April 12, 2012.

(4) The commission shall gather information and communicate with juvenile justice specialists of the Office of Probation Administration and county officials with respect to any county-operated practice model participating in the Crossover Youth Program of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

(5) If the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project is enacted by the One Hundred Second Legislature, Second Session, 2012, the commission shall coordinate and gather information about the progress and outcomes of the project.

Sec. 57. Section 43-4314, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-4314 Private agency means a child welfare agency that contracts with the department or the Office of Probation Administration or contracts to provide services to another child welfare agency that contracts with the department or the Office of Probation Administration.

Sec. 58. Section 43-4318, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-4318 (1) The office shall investigate:
(a) Allegations or incidents of possible misconduct, misfeasance, malfeasance, or violations of statutes or of rules or regulations of the department by an employee of or person under contract with the department, a private agency, a licensed child care facility, a foster parent, or any other provider of child welfare services or which may provide a basis for discipline pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act; and
(b) Death or serious injury in foster homes, private agencies, child care facilities, juvenile detention facilities, staff secure juvenile facilities, and other programs and facilities licensed by or under contract with the department or the Office of Probation Administration and death or serious injury in any case in which services are provided by the department to a child or his or her parents or any case involving an investigation under the Child Protection Act, which case has been open for one year or less. The department and the Office of Probation Administration shall report all cases of death or serious injury of a child in a foster home, private agency, child care facility or program, or other program or facility licensed by the department to the Inspector General as soon as reasonably possible after the department or the Office of Probation Administration learns of such death or serious injury. For purposes of this subdivision, serious injury means an injury or illness caused by suspected abuse, neglect, or maltreatment which leaves a child in critical or serious condition.

(2) Any investigation conducted by the Inspector General shall be independent of and separate from an investigation pursuant to the Child Protection Act. The Inspector General and his or her staff are subject to the reporting requirements of the Child Protection Act.

(3) Notwithstanding the fact that a criminal investigation, a criminal prosecution, or both are in progress, all law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys shall cooperate with any investigation conducted by
the Inspector General and shall, immediately upon request by the Inspector General, provide the Inspector General with copies of all law enforcement reports which are relevant to the Inspector General’s investigation. All law enforcement reports which have been provided to the Inspector General pursuant to this section are not public records for purposes of sections 84-712 to 84-712.09 and shall not be subject to discovery by any other person or entity. Except to the extent that disclosure of information is otherwise provided for in the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act, the Inspector General shall maintain the confidentiality of all law enforcement reports received pursuant to its request under this section. Law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys shall, when requested by the Inspector General, collaborate with the Inspector General regarding all other information relevant to the Inspector General’s investigation. If the Inspector General in conjunction with the Public Counsel determines it appropriate, the Inspector General may, when requested to do so by a law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney, suspend an investigation by the office until a criminal investigation or prosecution is completed or has proceeded to a point that, in the judgment of the Inspector General, reinstatement of the Inspector General’s investigation will not impede or infringe upon the criminal investigation or prosecution. Under no circumstance shall the Inspector General interview any minor who has already been interviewed by a law enforcement agency, personnel of the Division of Children and Family Services of the department, or staff of a child advocacy center in connection with a relevant ongoing investigation of a law enforcement agency.

Sec. 59. Section 43-4320, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-4320 (1) Complaints to the office may be made in writing. The office shall also maintain a toll-free telephone line for complaints. A complaint shall be evaluated to determine if it alleges possible misconduct, misfeasance, malfeasance, or violation of a statute or of rules and regulations of the department by an employee of or a person under contract with the department, a private agency, or a licensed child care facility, a foster parent, or any other provider of child welfare services or alleges a basis for discipline pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act. All complaints shall be evaluated to determine whether a full investigation is warranted.

(2) The office shall not conduct a full investigation of a complaint unless:

(a) The complaint alleges misconduct, misfeasance, malfeasance, violation of a statute or of rules and regulations of the department, or a basis for discipline pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act;

(b) The complaint is against a person within the jurisdiction of the office; and

(c) The allegations can be independently verified through investigation.

(3) The Inspector General shall determine within fourteen days after receipt of a complaint whether it will conduct a full investigation. A complaint alleging facts which, if verified, would provide a basis for discipline under the Uniform Credentialing Act shall be referred to the appropriate credentialing board under the act.

(4) When a full investigation is opened on a private agency that contracts with the Office of Probation Administration, the Inspector General shall give notice of such investigation to the Office of Probation Administration.

Sec. 60. Section 43-4321, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-4321 All employees of the department, all foster parents, and all owners, operators, managers, supervisors, and employees of private agencies, licensed child care facilities, juvenile detention facilities, staff secure juvenile facilities, and other providers of child welfare services shall cooperate with the office. Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Provision of full access to and production of records and information. Providing access to and producing records and information for the office is not a violation of confidentiality provisions under any law, statute, rule, or regulation if done in good faith for purposes of an investigation under the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act;

(2) Fair and honest disclosure of records and information reasonably requested by the office in the course of an investigation under the act;

(3) Encouraging employees to fully comply with reasonable requests of the office in the course of an investigation under the act;
(4) Prohibition of retaliation by owners, operators, or managers against employees for providing records or information or filing or otherwise making a complaint to the office;

(5) Not requiring employees to gain supervisory approval prior to filing a complaint with or providing records or information to the office;

(6) Provision of complete and truthful answers to questions posed by the office in the course of an investigation; and

(7) Not willfully interfering with or obstructing the investigation. Sec. 61. Section 43-4324, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

43-4324 (1) In conducting investigations, the office shall access all relevant records through subpoena, compliance with a request of the office, and voluntary production. The office may request or subpoena any record necessary for the investigation from the department, a foster parent, a licensed child care facility, a juvenile detention facility, a staff secure juvenile facility, or a private agency that is pertinent to an investigation. All case files, licensing files, medical records, financial and administrative records, and records required to be maintained pursuant to applicable licensing rules shall be produced for review by the office in the course of an investigation.

(2) Compliance with a request of the office includes:

(a) Production of all records requested;

(b) A diligent search to ensure that all appropriate records are included; and

(c) A continuing obligation to immediately forward to the office any relevant records received, located, or generated after the date of the request.

(3) The office shall seek access in a manner that respects the dignity and human rights of all persons involved, maintains the integrity of the investigation, and does not unnecessarily disrupt child welfare programs or services. When advance notice to a foster parent or to an administrator or his or her designee is not provided, the office investigator shall, upon arrival at the departmental office, bureau, or division, the private agency, the licensed child care facility, the juvenile detention facility, the staff secure juvenile facility, or the location of another provider of child welfare services, request that an onsite employee notify the administrator or his or her designee of the investigator’s arrival.

(4) When circumstances of an investigation require, the office may make an unannounced visit to a foster home, a departmental office, bureau, or division, a licensed child care facility, a juvenile detention facility, a staff secure juvenile facility, a private agency, or another provider to request records relevant to an investigation.

(5) A responsible individual or an administrator may be asked to sign a statement of record integrity and security when a record is secured by request as the result of a visit by the office, stating:

(a) That the responsible individual or the administrator has made a diligent search of the office, bureau, division, private agency, licensed child care facility, juvenile detention facility, staff secure juvenile facility, or other provider’s location to determine that all appropriate records in existence at the time of the request were produced;

(b) That the responsible individual or the administrator agrees to immediately forward to the office any relevant records received, located, or generated after the visit;

(c) That the persons who have had access to the records since they were secured;

(d) Whether, to the best of the knowledge of the responsible individual or the administrator, any records were removed from or added to the record since it was secured.

(6) The office shall permit a responsible individual, an administrator, or an employee of a departmental office, bureau, or division, a private agency, a licensed child care facility, a juvenile detention facility, a staff secure juvenile facility, or another provider to make photocopies of the original records within a reasonable time in the presence of the office for purposes of creating a working record in a manner that assures confidentiality.

(7) The office shall present to the responsible individual or the administrator or other employee of the departmental office, bureau, or division, private agency, licensed child care facility, juvenile detention facility, staff secure juvenile facility, or other service provider a copy of the request, stating the date and the titles of the records received.

(8) If an original record is provided during an investigation, the office shall return the original record as soon as practical but no later than
ten working days after the date of the compliance request.

(9) All investigations conducted by the office shall be conducted in a manner designed to ensure the preservation of evidence for possible use in a criminal prosecution.

Sec. 62. Section 81-8,245, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

81-8,245 The Public Council shall have the power to:

(1) Investigate, on complaint or on his or her own motion, any administrative act of any administrative agency;

(2) Prescribe the methods by which complaints are to be made, received, and acted upon; determine the scope and manner of investigations to be made; and, subject to the requirements of sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254, determine the form, frequency, and distribution of his or her conclusions, recommendations, and proposals;

(3) Conduct inspections of the premises, or any parts thereof, of any administrative agency or any property owned, leased, or operated by any administrative agency as frequently as is necessary, in his or her opinion, to carry out duties prescribed under sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254;

(4) Request and receive from each administrative agency, and such agency shall provide, the assistance and information the counsel deems necessary for the discharge of his or her responsibilities; inspect and examine the records and documents of all administrative agencies notwithstanding any other provision of law; and enter and inspect premises within any administrative agency’s control;

(5) Issue a subpoena, enforceable by action in an appropriate court, to compel any person to appear, give sworn testimony, or produce documentary or other evidence deemed relevant to a matter under his or her inquiry. A person thus required to provide information shall be paid the same fees and travel allowances and shall be accorded the same privileges and immunities as are extended to witnesses in the district courts of this state and shall also be entitled to have counsel present while being questioned;

(6) Undertake, participate in, or cooperate with general studies or inquiries, whether or not related to any particular administrative agency or any particular administrative act, if he or she believes that they may enhance knowledge about or lead to improvements in the functioning of administrative agencies;

(7) Make investigations, reports, and recommendations necessary to carry out his or her duties under the State Government Effectiveness Act; and

(8) Carry out his or her duties under the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act. If any of the provisions of sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254 conflict with provisions of the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act, the provisions of such act shall control; and-

(9) Investigate and address the complaint and case of:

(a) Any juvenile committed to the custody of a youth rehabilitation and treatment center; and

(b) Any juvenile released from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center for reentry into the community, while that juvenile is subject to the Community and Family Reentry Process and a service or treatment program in which the juvenile may be involved after his or her release from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center, whether that service or program is administered by the Office of Juvenile Services or a private provider in the community. The Office of Juvenile Services and private providers in the community shall cooperate with any investigation conducted by the Public Counsel pursuant to this subdivision and provide all documentation and information requested by the Public Counsel in connection with such an investigation.

Sec. 63. Section 81-1417, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1417 (1) The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice shall consist of eighteen members. The membership shall include the Governor, the Attorney General, the Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety, the Director of Correctional Services, the chief of police or director of public safety of a city of less than two hundred thousand population, the chief of police or director of public safety of a city of less than two hundred thousand population or less, a county sheriff, a county attorney, a county commissioner, a mayor or city manager, a person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile delinquency, the chairperson of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council, the chairperson of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and six members, at least one of whom shall be a woman, from the public at large. The seven members of the council shall also be considered members of the commission acting as a special
committee of the commission with limited powers and duties. A member of the commission may serve concurrently as a member of the council. The term of the district court judge serving on July 20, 2002, terminates on such date.

(2) The Governor may increase the membership of the commission at any time if such increase is necessary to comply with the provisions of any federal act providing funds for law enforcement or delinquency prevention purposes. Such members of the commission appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year from January 1 next succeeding their appointments.

(3) Except for the Governor, the Attorney General, the Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety, and the Director of Correctional Services, the chairperson of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council, and the chairperson of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, the members of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor. The membership of the commission shall represent varying geographic areas and large and small governmental subdivisions.

Sec. 64. Section 83-4,124, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

83-4,124 (1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Nebraska that all criminal detention facilities and juvenile detention facilities in this state shall conform to certain minimum standards of construction, maintenance, and operation and that all juvenile detention facilities and staff secure juvenile facilities in this state shall conform to certain minimum standards relating to the operation and physical structure of such facilities and the care of, programs for, and discipline of juveniles at such facilities.

(2) To further such policy, the Jail Standards Board is hereby created. For administrative and budgetary purposes such board shall be within the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. The board shall consist of the Director of Correctional Services or, if the Director of Correctional Services chooses not to serve on the board, a person appointed by the director to serve in lieu of the director, the State Fire Marshal or his or her designee, and nine ten appointive members, three of whom shall be from each of the three congressional districts, to be appointed by the Governor. The appointive members of the board shall be appointed from recommendation lists containing at least three names submitted by the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Nebraska County Sheriffs Association, the Nebraska State Bar Association, and the Police Officers Association of Nebraska. The appointive members of the board shall consist of: (1) (a) Two county commissioners or supervisors; (2) (b) one county sheriff; (3) (c) one municipal police chief; (4) (d) one member of the Nebraska State Bar Association; (5) (e) two lay people; (6) (f) one person who at the time of his or her appointment is serving as an administrator responsible for the operation and maintenance of a juvenile detention facility; (7) one person who at the time of his or her appointment is serving as an administrator responsible for the operation and maintenance of a staff secure juvenile facility; and (8) (h) one person who at the time of his or her appointment is serving as an administrator or jailer responsible for the operation and maintenance of a criminal detention facility having an average daily population of greater than fifty persons. The term of the district judge serving on July 20, 2002, terminates on such date.

(3) The terms of office for all members initially appointed shall be three years. Upon completion of the initial term of the board, the Governor shall appoint one member from each congressional district for a term of one year, one member from each congressional district for a term of two years, and one member from each congressional district for a term of three years. Succeeding appointees shall be representative of the same congressional district and shall be appointed for terms of three years. An appointee to a vacancy occurring from an unexpired term shall serve out the term of his or her predecessor. Members whose terms have expired shall continue to serve until their successors have been appointed. The member authorized by this legislative bill shall be appointed by the Governor within ninety days after the effective date of this act.

(4) The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses while engaged in the performance of their official duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

Sec. 65. Section 83-4,125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

83-4,125 For purposes of sections 83-4,124 to 83-4,134:

(1) Criminal detention facility shall mean means any institution operated by a political subdivision or a combination of political subdivisions for the careful keeping or rehabilitative needs of adult or juvenile criminal
offenders or those persons being detained while awaiting disposition of charges against them. Criminal detention facility shall does not include any institution operated by the Department of Correctional Services. Criminal detention facilities shall be classified as follows:

(a) Type I Facilities shall mean means criminal detention facilities used for the detention of persons for not more than twenty-four hours, excluding nonjudicial days;
(b) Type II Facilities shall mean means criminal detention facilities used for the detention of persons for not more than ninety-six hours, excluding nonjudicial days; and
(c) Type III Facilities shall mean means criminal detention facilities used for the detention of persons beyond ninety-six hours; and
(2) Juvenile detention facility shall mean means an institution operated by a political subdivision or political subdivisions for the secure detention and treatment of persons younger than eighteen years of age, including persons under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, who are serving a sentence pursuant to a conviction in a county or district court or who are detained while waiting disposition of charges against them. Juvenile detention facility shall does not include any institution operated by the department;
and-
(3) Staff secure juvenile facility means a juvenile residential facility operated by a political subdivision (a) which does not include construction designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of juveniles that are in custody in the facility, (b) in which physical restriction of movement or activity of juveniles is provided solely through staff, (c) which may establish reasonable rules restricting ingress to and egress from the facility, and (d) in which the movements and activities of individual juvenile residents may, for treatment purposes, be restricted or subject to control through the use of intensive staff supervision. Staff secure juvenile facility does not include any institution operated by the department.

Sec. 66. Section 83-4,126, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
83-4,126 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the Jail Standards Board shall have the authority and responsibility:
(a) To develop minimum standards for the construction, maintenance, and operation of criminal detention facilities;
(b) To perform such other duties as may be necessary to carry out the policy of the state regarding such criminal detention facilities, and juvenile detention facilities, and staff secure juvenile facilities as stated in sections 83-4,124 to 83-4,134; and
(c) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Juvenile Services Act, to develop standards for juvenile detention facilities and staff secure juvenile facilities, including, but not limited to, standards for physical facilities, care, programs, and disciplinary procedures, and to develop guidelines pertaining to the operation of such facilities.
(2) The Jail Standards Board shall not have authority over or responsibility for correctional facilities that are accredited by a nationally recognized correctional association. A correctional facility that is accredited by a nationally recognized correctional association shall show proof of accreditation annually to the Jail Standards Board. For purposes of this subsection, nationally recognized correctional association includes, but is not limited to, the American Correctional Association or its successor.

Sec. 67. Section 83-4,131, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
83-4,131 Personnel of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice shall visit and inspect each criminal detention facility, and juvenile detention facility, and staff secure juvenile facility in the state, except correctional facilities accredited by a nationally recognized correctional association pursuant to subsection (2) of section 83-4,126, for the purpose of determining the conditions of confinement, the treatment of persons confined in the facilities, and whether such facilities comply with the minimum standards established by the Jail Standards Board. A written report of each inspection shall be made within thirty days following such inspection to the appropriate governing body responsible for the criminal detention facility, or juvenile detention facility, or staff secure juvenile facility involved. The report shall specify those areas in which the facility does not comply with the required minimum standards.

Sec. 68. Section 83-4,132, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
83-4,132 If an inspection under sections 83-4,124 to 83-4,134 discloses that the criminal detention facility, or juvenile detention
facility, or staff secure juvenile facility does not meet the minimum standards established by the Jail Standards Board, the board shall send notice, together with the inspection report, to the governing body responsible for the facility. The appropriate governing body shall promptly meet to consider the inspection report, and the inspection personnel shall appear before the governing body to advise and consult concerning appropriate corrective action. The governing body shall then initiate appropriate corrective action within six months of after the receipt of such inspection report or may voluntarily close the facility or the objectionable portion thereof.

Sec. 69. Section 83-4,133, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

83-4,133 If the governing body of the juvenile detention facility, or criminal detention facility, or staff secure juvenile facility fails to initiate corrective action within six months after the receipt of such inspection report, fails to correct the disclosed conditions, or fails to close the criminal detention facility, or juvenile detention facility, or staff secure juvenile facility or the objectionable portion thereof, the Jail Standards Board may petition the district court within the judicial district in which such facility is located to close the facility. Such petition shall include the inspection report regarding such facility. The local governing body shall then have thirty days to respond to such petition and shall serve a copy of the response on the Jail Standards Board by certified mail, return receipt requested. Thereafter, a hearing shall be held on the petition before the district court, and an order shall be rendered by such court which either:

(1) Dismisses the petition of the Jail Standards Board;
(2) Directs that corrective action be initiated in some form by the local governing body of the facility in question; or
(3) Directs that the facility be closed. An appeal from the decision of the district court may be taken to the Court of Appeals.

Sec. 70. Section 83-4,134, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

83-4,134 Sections 83-4,124 to 83-4,134 shall be implemented upon completion of the development of minimum standards by the Jail Standards Board. Thereafter, inspections shall begin, but no criminal detention facility, or juvenile detention facility, or staff secure juvenile facility shall be closed within one year of the date of first filing of the minimum standards in the office of the Secretary of State. After one year from the date of first filing of the minimum standards, a facility may be closed for any violation of the minimum standards. Those standards relating to the construction of the facility itself and its plumbing, heating, and wiring systems shall not be enforced so as to require the closing of any facility for a period of two years from the date of the first filing of the minimum standards unless such violations are of immediate danger to the safety of the persons confined in the facility or facility personnel, in which case such period shall be one year.

Sec. 71. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the alternative response to reports of child abuse or neglect model developed pursuant to subsection (2) of this section be implemented in designated sites under the Child Protection Act no earlier than July 2014.

(2) The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene interested stakeholders and families to develop a model for alternative response to reports of child abuse or neglect under the Child Protection Act. The model shall include:

(a) Methodology for determining the location of sites for initial implementation of alternative response;
(b) An estimate of the percentage of reports of child abuse or neglect eligible for alternative response;
(c) Eligibility criteria for alternative response;
(d) The process to determine eligibility for alternative response;
(e) The assessment protocol and tools to be used for alternative response;
(f) The role of child abuse and neglect investigative teams and child abuse and neglect treatment teams in implementation sites;
(g) How, with whom, and what alternative response data will be shared;
(h) The criteria and process for transition of families from an alternative response to a traditional investigation;
(i) The criteria and process for families who refuse an alternative response;
(j) The plan to address the continuum of services needed for families receiving an alternative response;

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(k) An overview of critical training elements for both staff who implement and stakeholders involved with alternative response implementation;

(l) A description of the evaluation component;

(m) The relationship of alternative response to Title IV-E waiver applications of the Department of Health and Human Services under the federal Social Security Act;

(n) A plan to communicate and update interested stakeholders and families with regard to the alternative response planning process;

(o) The identification of statutory and policy changes necessary to implement the alternative response model, including a procedure that provides that reports of child abuse and neglect which receive an alternative response shall not receive a formal determination and the subject of the report shall not be entered into the central register of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-718;

(p) A budget for implementing and sustaining an alternative response model;

(q) The mechanisms of oversight and accountability in the alternative response model; and

(r) A determination of how alternative response service providers will be selected.

(3) The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the model developed under subsection (2) of this section in a report to the Nebraska Children’s Commission by November 1, 2013, for the commission’s review. The Nebraska Children’s Commission shall electronically submit the report and review to the Legislature by December 15, 2013.


Sec. 73. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.