

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 248

Introduced by Campbell, 25; Scheer, 19.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Act) and its implementation in Nebraska. The Act was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Obama on September 29, 2014. The Act includes provisions to protect children and youth at risk of sex trafficking, support normalcy for children in foster care, improve adoption incentives, and extend family connection grants. The Act includes, among other things, provisions requiring states to:

(1) Develop and implement policies and procedures to identify, collect, and report data to determine appropriate services for children or youth in the placement, care, or supervision of the state who are victims of sex trafficking or at risk of becoming sex trafficking victims;

(2) Develop and implement plans for expeditiously locating and responding to any child missing from foster care, and determine the primary factors that contributed to the child's running away as well as the child's experiences while absent from foster care;

(3) Calculate and report on any savings resulting from the phase-out of income eligibility requirements for adoption assistance and how the savings were used;

(4) Support normalcy by instituting a reasonable and prudent parent standard to allow foster children and other youth to participate in developmentally appropriate or age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities;

(5) Eliminate Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) as a permanency goal for children under the age of 16 and add additional case plan

and review requirements for older youth who have a permanency goal of APPLA;

(6) Consult with youth in foster care who are age 14 or older in the development of their own case plan and allow them to select two trusted adults to be part of their permanency planning team; and

(7) Give youth a list of their rights while in foster care regarding education, health, visitation, court participation, and the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

The study shall examine the status of the implementation of the Act in Nebraska, including changes to the Department of Health and Human Services' state plan, policies, and procedures and whether any changes should be made to current state law in accordance with the Act.

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

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

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