PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine issues related to public assistance programs for relative or kinship caregivers who provide full-time care for minor children through the formal child welfare system or through an informal arrangement. This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following issues:

(1) The use and availability of public assistance programs for relative or kinship caregivers inside and outside the formal child welfare system;

(2) Financial barriers that prevent otherwise suitable adults from becoming relative or kinship caregivers;

(3) Policies in other states that encourage and support kinship caregiving through access to public assistance programs, especially for the purpose of preventing future or continued involvement in the child welfare system; and

(4) The interaction between public assistance program access and the availability of stable and loving homes for children with caregivers who are not their parents.

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.