

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 300**

Introduced by Campbell, 25.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the out-of-state placements of Nebraska children pursuant to section 43-247 of the Nebraska statutes. During FY2014, the Foster Care Review Office found there were 381 children in out-of-state placements with 25% in relative placements, 28% in group homes, and 42% in treatment placements. For the first quarter of 2015, the Office of Probation Administration reported 158 youth in out-of-state placements with 3% in relative placements, 39% in group homes, and 51% in treatment placements. This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following issues:

(1) The types of out-of-state congregate care placements where Nebraska children are or have been placed, including group homes, treatment facilities, staff secure facilities, or other institutional care;

(2) The rates of such placements and the lengths of stay;

(3) Whether the level of care needed and the placements are appropriate;

(4) The reasons why children are not placed in Nebraska;

(5) The role of medicaid and other funding sources in paying for out-of-state placements;

(6) Family input and preference regarding the placement of children in out-of-state or instate placements; and

(7) The possibility of utilizing geographically closer placements or strengthening Nebraska's provider system to allow instate treatment or placement.

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.