

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2018
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LR296

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 21, 2018

Committee On: Executive Board

Introducer: Walz

One Liner: Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee known as the State-Licensed Care Facilities Investigative Committee of the Legislature

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Report to the Legislature for further consideration with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 6 Senators Bolz, Chambers, Crawford, Hughes, McCollister, Watermeier

Nay:

Absent: 3 Senators Kuehn, Larson, Scheer

Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Lynne Walz

Dianne DeLair

Mark Munger

Janet Benner

Kasey Moyer

Melissa Lemmer

Edison McDonald

J Rock Johnson

Representing:

Introducer

Disability Rights Nebraska

Self

Sef

Mental Health Association of Nebraska

Self

The Arc of Nebraska

Self

Opponents:

Senator Merv Riepe

Jenifer Roberts Acierno

Representing:

Health and Human Services Committee

Department of Health and Human Services

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LR296 would create the State-Licensed Care Facilities Investigative Committee of the Legislature to study the lack of adequate conditions of state-licensed care facilities, the treatment of individuals residing in such facilities, the effectiveness of regulation and licensure of the Division of Public Health, and how the Department of Health & Human Services implements and administers its behavioral health services through the behavioral health regions.

The committee shall also investigate the steps the department has taken regarding the recommendations proposed by a consultant to the department on permanent and supportive housing services that do not exist for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, and whether the department is taking adequate steps to ensure behavioral health services are administered in the most integrated setting pursuant to the ADA.

The committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board and consist of seven members.

Explanation of amendments:

The amendment (AM2179) makes three changes:

It takes out the references to an "investigative" committee and instead calls for the appointment of an "oversight" committee.

In order to address fiscal concerns, the amendment takes out any reference to hiring outside legal counsel, consultants, and investigators, plus deletes the committee's ability to issue subpoenas.

Finally, AM2179 narrows the scope of the study to assisted living facilities "where many of the residents are diagnosed with a mental illness." Specific language regarding examining the recent closures of mental health centers in Palmer and Blue Hill is also added.

Dan Watermeier, Chairperson