

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 198

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Baker, 30; Ebke, 32; Krist, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the impact of mass incarceration on children in Nebraska, and to examine opportunities to ease the traumatic effects of parental incarceration on children. This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) National best practices and current local law enforcement policy and practice when a minor is present during the arrest of a parent or guardian;

(2) Local jail visitation and phone call policies as they relate to communication between a detained parent and their biological, custodial, and step children;

(3) Opportunities in sentencing and placement to ease the physical and emotional trauma that children experience when their parents are jailed or incarcerated;

(4) Existing programs offered within state correctional institutions that are intended to improve parental capacity during incarceration and their current capacity to meet the needs of incarcerated parents;

(5) Model child-friendly visitation policies within state correctional institutions and the feasibility of their application to existing state policy and regulation;

(6) Structural barriers to maintaining and supporting parent-child relationships during incarceration, such as phone call or video call costs;

(7) Opportunities to coordinate between state systems and private agencies to better support children and their caretakers through incarceration;

(8) Current efforts to reduce recidivism rates and promote successful re-entry, and their applicability to maintaining parent-child relationships and stabilizing families through incarceration; and

(9) Policies and practices within the criminal justice system that

disproportionately affect children of color and children from low-income families.

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

1. That the Judiciary 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.