

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 413

Introduced by Lindstrom, 18.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study strategies to strengthen Nebraska's workforce and build financial mobility and independence, particularly among working parents with young children. This resolution will examine structural barriers to financial independence in public work support programs. Such barriers exist when income eligibility levels for work supports force Nebraskans to choose between increased wages or hours and a loss of benefits.

The study shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(1) An examination of current state-funded work supports offered by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist working parents with child care affordability;

(2) Estimates of the cost of raising a family in Nebraska, disaggregated to reflect geography or rurality, family type, and ages of children, to the degree possible;

(3) An analysis of the incongruity between the cost of raising a family and current eligibility levels for state-funded child care assistance to ensure full employment among working parents;

(4) The identification of options available to the state to more effectively leverage federal funding to improve the effectiveness of child care assistance programs in ways that support families attempting to successfully transition off such programs;

(5) Information from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding full utilization of federal funds toward increasing access and quality for child care assistance, including plans for the anticipated increase in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds for federal fiscal years 2018

and 2019, and the status of unspent federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) funds that are in excess of necessary reserves; and

(6) An examination of policies and regulations that adequately align child care subsidy eligibility levels with the cost of raising a family in other states or jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.