

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 430

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2017 (the Act) and its implementation in Nebraska. The Act was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Trump on February 9, 2018, as part of Division E in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

The Act represents a significant change in the manner in which the federal government provides funding for services for children and families. The Act redirects federal funds to provide services to keep children safely with their families and out of foster care, and, when foster care is needed, allows federal reimbursement for care in family-based settings and certain residential treatment programs.

Among other things, the Act includes provisions that: (1) Permit federal funding for prevention services for children at risk of entering foster care at the option of the state; (2) limit federal funding to children in foster family homes and qualified residential treatment programs, special treatment settings for pregnant and parenting teens, youth eighteen years and older preparing to transition from foster care to adulthood, and youth who are found to be or are at risk of becoming sex trafficking victims; (3) provide federal investments in evidence-based kinship navigator programs and family reunification services; (4) require states to review foster care licensing standards and compare them to federally identified model licensing standards; (5) require states to track and prevent child maltreatment fatalities; (6) extend John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program services to assist former foster youth up to age twenty-three and eligibility for education and training vouchers for such youth up to age twenty-six; and (7) establish an electronic case-processing system to

expedite interstate placement of children.

The study shall examine the status of the implementation of the Act in Nebraska, including changes to the Department of Health and Human Services' state plan, policies, and procedures and whether any changes should be made to current state law in accordance with the Act.

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

1. That the Appropriations 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.