

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB849

Hearing Date: Friday January 31, 2020
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Pansing Brooks
One Liner: Change eligibility requirements under the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, Hansen, B., Howard, Murman, Walz, Williams
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Patty Pansing Brooks
Sarah Helvey
Elizabeth Brown
Gwen Porter
Derek LaPointe
Judi gaiashkibos

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Indian Child Welfare, Inc.
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Santee Sioux Nation
Indian Affairs Commission

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 849 amends the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act. The Bridge to Independence Program provides extended services and support to former foster youth once the youth has aged out the foster care system. (Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 43-4503.) Currently a youth is required to be at least 19 years of age - the age of majority in Nebraska - to be eligible for the program. (Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 43-4504.)

LB 849 extends eligibility for the Bridge to Independence Program to native youth aging out of Tribal Court proceedings at the age of 18. It creates a definition of "age of eligibility" which includes either nineteen years of age or "eighteen years of age if the young adult has become ineligible for participation in tribal court due to attaining eighteen years of age." (Sec. 2(1), pg. 2, lines 14-18.)

"Age of eligibility" then replaces "nineteen years of age" throughout LB 849 and the Bridge to Independence Act. (Sec. 2, pg. 3, lines 5-6; sec. 3, pg. 3. Lines 12-13, 20; sec 4, pg. 4, line 31; sec. 5, pg. 5, lines 21-22; sec. 6, pg. 6, lines 21-22.)

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2149 inserts language in section 1 to clarify that the Bridge to Independence Program supports former tribal wards as well as state wards and similarly, that the program does not abrogate the rights of former tribal wards or state wards.

The language in section 2(1)(b) is also amended to clarify that a youth in tribal foster care must be 18 and attain "the age of a majority under tribal law" to be eligible for the Bridge to Independence Program.

Sara Howard, Chairperson