LEGISLATIVE BILL 1044

Introduced by Hilkemann, 4.
Read first time January 18, 2022
Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to adopt the
Care Team Innovation Grant Pilot Project Act; and to state intent
regarding funding.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Care Team Innovation Grant Pilot Project Act.

Sec. 2. For purposes of the Care Team Innovation Grant Pilot Project Act:

(1) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(2) Hospital means a health care facility licensed as a hospital pursuant to the Health Care Facility Licensure Act.

Sec. 3. The Legislature finds that:

(1) One of the early lessons learned from the COVID-19 health care emergency was the importance of cross-training care staff in health care facilities to work outside of the specialty for which the staff held a credential to cover care needs, regardless of the department of the health care facility or the care setting;

(2) The ability to recruit, train, retain, and support health care workers in hospitals and other health care facilities will be shaped by several trends transforming health care;

(3) Care delivery will never be the same as new models of care are emerging; and

(4) Hospitals and other health care facilities are exploring new inpatient care delivery team models that utilize each health care professional to practice at the top of the individual's credential.

Sec. 4. The department shall establish a timeline and competitive application process for grants for innovation in delivery of health care by hospitals.

Sec. 5. The applications received under section 4 of this act shall be prioritized and awarded by the ability to improve the health care workforce in Nebraska.

Sec. 6. Any recipient of a grant under the Care Team Innovation Grant Pilot Project Act shall report the results of the expenditure of the grant to the department by December 31, 2024. The department shall
share the results with other health care facilities.

Sec. 7. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate $2,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the department, for Program 262, to provide grants to hospitals pursuant to the Care Team Innovation Grant Pilot Project Act. The Federal Funds to be appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.