LESLIATIVE BILL 1267

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Aguilar, 35; Brewer, 43; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Hansen, M., 26; Hilkemann, 4; McKinney, 11; Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for
2 health equity liaisons; and to declare an emergency.
3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) One of the primary objectives of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is to "address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic";

(2) According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there are moderate to significant disparities between white residents and those identifying as African American, American Indian, and Hispanic in terms of perceived health status, health coverage, and ability to see a physician, among other reasons;

(3) Research has shown Nebraska has a wide divide in the race and ethnic demographics of the health care workforce and the projected demographic composition of the Nebraska population; and

(4) In furtherance of the goals of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate Federal Funds to address the disparities as provided in sections 2 to 6 of this act.

Sec. 2. (1) There is hereby appropriated $500,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on Indian Affairs to carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds 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.

(2)(a) The Commission on Indian Affairs shall employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the population served by the commission.

(b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024.
outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
served by the commission.

(c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

Sec. 3. (1) There is hereby appropriated $500,000 from Federal
Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
to carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds
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.

(2)(a) The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired shall
employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison
between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services,
and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities
for the population served by the commission.

(b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of
Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report
electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024,
outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population
served by the commission.

(c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the
Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the
federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

Sec. 4. (1) There is hereby appropriated $500,000 from Federal
Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on African American Affairs to
carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds 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.

(2)(a) The Commission on African American Affairs shall employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the population served by the commission.

(b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024, outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population served by the commission.

(c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

Sec. 5. (1) There is hereby appropriated $500,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds 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.

(2)(a) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the population served by the commission.

(b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024, outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population served by the commission.
(c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

Sec. 6. (1) There is hereby appropriated $500,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Commission on Latino-Americans to carry out subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds 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.

(2)(a) The Commission on Latino-Americans shall employ or contract with a health equity liaison to serve as a liaison between patients, hospitals, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other stakeholders to help identify and address health disparities for the population served by the commission.

(b) The commission shall work with the department, the University of Nebraska, and other organizations to collect data and submit a report electronically to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2024, outlining recommendations to address health inequities for the population served by the commission.

(c) The commission shall notify the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature by October 1, 2023, if it does not anticipate spending the federal funds appropriated pursuant to this section by December 31, 2024.

Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.