

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 165

Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to explore ways of improving dental benefits under the medical assistance program through increasing engagement by dentists. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Better training for dentists on oral health disparities, the challenges faced by Nebraskans receiving medicaid benefits, and how to navigate dental benefits under the medical assistance program effectively;

(2) The role that fees play in the choice to participate in the medical assistance program or accept new patients who are enrolled in medicaid;

(3) Reducing administrative burdens in dental practices that deter dentists from participating in the medical assistance program;

(4) Establishing payments to dental schools that consider adding a multiplier based on the number of medicaid-eligible patients cared for and consider other ways that the Department of Health and Human Services and dental schools could support and encourage student learning regarding medicaid-eligible patients and the medical assistance program;

(5) Engaging new dentists in caring for medicaid-eligible patients, including the feasibility of supporting loan repayments for new graduates that remain in Nebraska and treat a certain numbers of medicaid-eligible Nebraskans;

(6) Engaging new and practicing dentists in caring for medicaid-eligible patients by allowing medicaid payments to be considered deferred income for state taxation purposes; and

(7) How the threat of audits have potentially deterred participation by dentists in the medical assistance program and how to create an audit process that aims to help educate dental providers and provide opportunities for

positive change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.