

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1066

Chairperson: Senator John Stinner

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 22, 2022

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB1066 provides federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for access to behavioral health acute care beds in rural Nebraska and training and educational opportunities for the behavioral health workforce in Nebraska.

\$5 million is appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide grants of up to \$250 thousand for capital costs related to the expansion of behavioral health acute care beds in rural areas where a shortage exists.

\$28 million is appropriated to the University of Nebraska for the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska to develop a comprehensive behavioral health internship program, a telebehavioral health support program, COVID-19-specific behavioral health education and training, and support of provisionally licensed behavioral health professionals.

- \$13 million to qualified internship programs for behavioral health trainees and supervisors to support successful completion of degree programs and licensure.
- \$10 million on a competitive basis to telebehavioral health programs designed to provide distance-based behavioral health services and proximal care.
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- \$3 million in one-time training and educational professional development opportunities related to the COVID-19 emergency for current behavioral health professionals and students to recruit and educate students in behavioral health training programs.
- \$2 million in support for provisionally licensed professionals who need additional supervision to become fully licensed professionals.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Stinner