

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB904

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 14, 2024
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: DeBoer
One Liner: Change duties of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding child care reimbursement rates

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Ballard, Cavanaugh, M., Day, Hansen, Hardin, Riepe, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents: Senator Wendy DeBoer Katie Bass	Representing: Opening Presenter First Five Nebraska
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 904 would allow for DHHS to use any methodology found within 45 C.F.R. 98.45 to set child care reimbursement rates.

SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY:

Sec. 1: Change language for the market rate survey to be now known the rates and costs for provision of services of the child care providers in the state.
Direct DHHS to assess the rates and costs utilizing an approved methodology in accordance with 45 C.F.R. 98.45, as such section existed on January 1, 2024.
Remove the following: "for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2017, such rate may not be less than the fiftieth percentile or the rate for the immediately preceding fiscal year and for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2018, such rate may not be less than the sixtieth percentile for the last three quarters of the fiscal year or the rate for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2016 language referring to the date of submission of the market rate survey that has already been submitted.



Explanation of amendments:

The standing committee amendment contains provisions of LB 1178.

LB1178 creates the Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Grant Program. The grants will assist with startup costs for nursing homes that establish a child care center within their facility. The intended appropriation is \$300,000 with \$100,000 maximum per grant.

SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY:

Sec. 1: The Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Grant Program is created. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate three hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 4 2024-25 to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide grants pursuant to this section. The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop requirements for eligibility, application, and audits for grants in collaboration with statewide associations representing nursing homes as defined in section 38-2414 and other stakeholders. The department shall meet with such associations prior to October 1, 2024, to identify any statutes, rules, regulations, or other regulatory barriers that impede the development of an intergenerational care facility in which nursing services and child care are provided and develop recommendations to remediate such barriers that do not impact the safety of the staff or recipients of the nursing services and child care or the quality of nursing services and child care.

The grants shall be awarded to facilities that are nursing homes as defined in section 38-2414 or assisted-living facilities as defined in section 71-5903 and that have been certified for participation in medicare or medicaid. The grants shall be used for one-time startup costs to provide for child care in such facilities. A facility may be awarded one grant under this section of up to one hundred thousand dollars. The grants shall be awarded for modification of structures, modification of outside campus space of the nursing facilities, purchase of child care equipment and supplies, or any combination of such purposes. A facility that is applying for or awarded a grant is not required to own or operate the child care services for which the grant is awarded.

The department shall award the grants on the basis of date of application with priority given to rural communities as defined in section 81-1228 for applications filed on the same date. A facility that was cited for substandard quality of care during its most recent survey is not eligible for a grant under this section. Each grant recipient shall establish a plan to participate in the quality rating and improvement system described in section 71-1956 within three years after the date the grant is awarded.

Motion to Amend LB 904 with LB1178

Vote results: 7-0-0

Voting Aye: Senator Hansen, Senator Ballard, Senator Day, Senator Walz, Senator Cavanaugh, M., Senator Riepe.

Voting Nay: None

Present Not Voting: None

Testifiers on LB 1178

Proponents:

Senator Anna Wishart

Jalene Carpenter, Nebraska Healthcare Association/Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Holly Hill, Trucks n Tiaras Intergenerational Academy

Kierstin Reed, Leading Age Nebraska



Jina Ragland, AARP Nebraska
Sara Howards, First Five Nebraska
Opponents:
None
Neutral:
None

Ben Hansen, Chairperson

