

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 204

Introduced by DeBoer, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to investigate whether the Office of Public Guardian is able to serve the state of Nebraska effectively. The Office of Public Guardian is designed to serve as the guardian or conservator for an individual when no other alternative is available. This study shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) A review of issues relating to the capacity of the Office of Public Guardian to meet the needs of vulnerable citizens in Nebraska, including, but not limited to, the responsibilities of public guardians, training of public guardians, wait times for public guardians, availability of public guardians, including, but not limited to, geographic availability and availability by extent or severity of need, management of the waiting list for public guardian appointments, and potential alternatives to public guardianship and associated responsibilities;

(2) A review of issues relating to staffing in the Office of Public Guardian, including, but not limited to, hiring and retention of associate public guardians and other multidisciplinary team members, needs of staff to properly serve as public guardians, including training, travel demands, the average amount of time serving individual wards, compensation, and other staffing concerns;

(3) A review of issues regarding the difficulty of obtaining appropriate placement into assistive medical or residential settings that best serve the interest of the ward for wards under the care of the Office of Public Guardian;

(4) An examination of statutory, regulatory, and other requirements and procedures for guardianship, including requirements for volunteer and family guardians; and

(5) An examination of how other states structure and support public guardianship, including, but not limited to, caseloads for guardians, agency in charge of state guardianship, funding levels for state agencies in charge of guardianship, interaction with other state and private support programs, statutory and regulatory requirements, and procedures for guardianship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Judiciary 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.