

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 422

Introduced by Fredrickson, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the needs, successes, and challenges relating to behavioral health in Nebraska, including the regional behavioral health authorities.

In 1974, the Legislature established the six behavioral health regions to address the diverse populations, resources, and needs of the state. State statutes set out the responsibility of each behavioral health region to plan, coordinate, develop, and evaluate the publicly funded behavioral health service system by addressing needs, gaps, and barriers and contracting with community-based service organizations to provide behavioral health treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and prevention activities. Behavioral health regions are local units of government that the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services contracts with to engage in planning and service implementation.

This study should include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Behavioral health needs and challenges throughout the state, particularly in rural Nebraska;
- (2) Services provided by the behavioral health regions and partner providers;
- (3) Challenges to funding utilization, including, but not limited to, the medical assistance program unwinding, COVID-19 pandemic policies, and staffing shortages;
- (4) The current and historical capacity of the Lincoln Regional Center;
- (5) The documented lack of flexibility and slow-walking of approval of new projects by the Division of Behavioral Health; and

(6) Opioid settlement projects and funds disbursement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.