

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 220

Introduced by Fredrickson, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the adequacy of funding and resources available to Level 3 Special Education Contractual Services for children. Children and students receiving Level 3 care require the highest level of intervention and support due to the severity of their behavioral or emotional challenges. Level 3 care providers offer specialized and intensive care for children exhibiting significant behavioral issues, such as aggression, self-harm, severe defiance, and disruptions to their living environments. The effectiveness of Level 3 care is directly influenced by staffing levels, access to therapeutic services, facility safety and structure, and the implementation of innovative care models tailored to the unique needs of residents. Additional resources may be necessary to enhance staffing, expand therapeutic services, improve facility infrastructure, and support program evaluation to better address the needs of children in Level 3 care. Ensuring transparency and evaluating effectiveness of such resources is critical to determining their impact and justifying future needs.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Assessing current funding levels and their utilization by Level 3 care providers;
- (2) Evaluating the adequacy of staffing levels, including staff-to-student ratios and training programs for managing severe behavioral challenges;
- (3) Analyzing the availability and quality of therapeutic services, such as individualized and group counseling, trauma-informed care, and crisis intervention strategies;
- (4) Examining the state of facility infrastructure, including safety

features and therapeutic environments;

(5) Reviewing existing program development efforts and their outcomes; and

(6) Identifying potential funding gaps and recommending strategies to ensure adequate support for these facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH 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.