

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 246

Introduced by Spivey, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the use of juvenile restrictive housing and room confinement in Nebraska, including its frequency, impact, and alignment with existing state law and evidence-based best practices.

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

(1) Reviewing Nebraska statutes, regulations, and departmental policies governing the use and oversight of juvenile restrictive housing and room confinement;

(2) Evaluating trends and operational challenges identified in recent annual reports from the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare;

(3) Researching the psychological and developmental impacts of confinement on youth, particularly vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, those with mental health needs or prior trauma;

(4) Reviewing alternatives to confinement, including evidence-based behavioral interventions, mental health supports, and less restrictive options; and

(5) Analyzing best practices and oversight models from other states that have successfully reduced reliance on restrictive housing; and

(6) Reviewing the data collection practices and structures across youth detention centers and youth rehabilitation and treatment centers on the use of room confinement and restrictive housing.

In conducting this interim study, the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature may confer with youth service agencies, detention facility administrators, state agencies, system-impacted youth, and other partners to ensure that Nebraska policies align with the best interests of involved youth.

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