

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 411**

Introduced by Riepe, 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine barriers affecting access to health care in Nebraska, with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on rural areas with specific attention to the role of transportation, distance, and other social and economic factors that affect timely care.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Examining the extent to which transportation limitations, work schedules, housing instability, food insecurity, and related challenges affect the ability of rural Nebraskans to obtain needed health care;

(2) Examining non-emergency medical transportation gaps in rural areas, particularly for recurring and life-sustaining services;

(3) Evaluating practical and cost-effective approaches to improve access to health care, including regional transportation coordination, voucher or reimbursement models, partnerships with local providers and community organizations, and medicaid or other state policy options;

(4) Reviewing and analyzing policies and programs adopted in other states and, if relevant, in comparable rural areas outside the United States that have addressed similar access and transportation challenges;

(5) Identifying ways to better coordinate existing state, local, and private resources to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and strengthen access to health care in rural communities; and

(6) Considering any other related matters that may improve access to necessary health services in a fiscally responsible and practical manner.

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