

LEGISLATIVE BILL 54

Approved by the Governor March 20, 2003

Introduced by Erdman, 47; Byars, 30; Jensen, 20

AN ACT relating to foster care; to amend section 71-1904, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002; to eliminate and provide for waiver of training requirements as prescribed; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 71-1904, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is amended to read:

71-1904. (1) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to sections 71-1901 to 71-1906.01 for ~~(1)~~ (a) the proper care and protection of children by licensees under such sections, ~~(2)~~ (b) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of licenses to provide foster care, ~~(3)~~ (c) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of probationary licenses to provide foster care, ~~(4)~~ (d) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of provisional licenses to provide foster care, ~~(5)~~ (e) the provision of training in foster care, which training shall be directly related to the skills necessary to care for children in need of out-of-home care, including, but not limited to, abused, neglected, dependent, and delinquent children, and ~~(6)~~ (f) the proper administration of sections 71-1901 to 71-1906.01.

(2) The training required by subdivision ~~(5)~~ (1) (e) of this section shall be between twelve and twenty-four hours as determined by the department may be waived in whole or in part by the department for persons operating foster homes providing care only to relatives of the foster care provider. Such waivers shall be granted on a case-by-case basis upon assessment by the department of the appropriateness of the relative foster care placement. The department shall report annually to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature the number of waivers granted under this subsection and the total number of children placed in relative foster homes.

Sec. 2. Original section 71-1904, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is repealed.

Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.