

AMENDMENTS TO LB 961

(Amendments to E & R amendments, ER8210)

Introduced by Hudkins, 21.

1 1. Insert the following new section:

2 Section 1. Section 29-3921, Revised Statutes Cumulative
3 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

4 29-3921 The Commission on Public Advocacy Operations Cash
5 Fund is created. The fund shall be used for the operations of
6 the commission. The fund shall consist of money remitted pursuant
7 to section 33-156. It is the intent of the Legislature that
8 the commission shall be funded solely from the fund. Any money
9 in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the
10 state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion
11 Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. ~~Any money in
12 the County Revenue Assistance Fund on April 19, 2002, shall be
13 transferred to the Commission on Public Advocacy Operations Cash
14 Fund.~~

15 The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty
16 thousand dollars from the Commission on Public Advocacy Operations
17 Cash Fund to the University Cash Fund within fifteen days after May
18 1, 2008. Such funds shall be used for a study of the juvenile legal
19 defense and guardian ad litem systems utilizing the University of
20 Nebraska Public Policy Center to create, administer, and review
21 a Request for Proposals to select from a national search a
22 research consultant that is qualified to provide a methodologically

1 sound and objective assessment of Nebraska's juvenile justice
2 system. The assessment shall include: (1) Gathering of general
3 data and information about the structure and funding mechanisms
4 for juvenile legal defense and guardian ad litem representation;
5 (2) a review of caseloads; (3) examining issues related to the
6 timing of appointment of counsel and guardians ad litem; (4)
7 supervision of attorneys; (5) frequency with which juveniles waive
8 their right to counsel and under what conditions they do so; (6)
9 allocation of resources; (7) adequacy of juvenile court facilities;
10 (8) compensation of attorneys; (9) supervising and training of
11 attorneys; (10) access to investigators, experts, social workers,
12 and support staff; (11) access to educational officers, teachers,
13 educational staff, and truancy officers; (12) the relationship
14 between a guardian ad litem, a juvenile's legal counsel, and
15 the judicial system with identified educational staff regarding
16 a juvenile's educational status; (13) examining issues related to
17 truancy and the relationship between the school districts and the
18 juvenile court system; (14) recidivism; (15) time to permanency and
19 time in court, especially when a guardian ad litem is appointed;
20 and (16) coordination of representation for those juveniles that
21 may have been appointed an attorney in a juvenile delinquency
22 matter and a guardian ad litem because of abuse or neglect. The
23 assessment shall also highlight promising approaches and innovative
24 practices within the state and offer recommendations to improve
25 weak areas.

26 2. On page 11, line 8, strike "section" and insert
27 "sections 29-3921 and"; in line 15 strike "section" and insert

- 1 "sections 29-3921 and"; and in line 19 after the semicolon insert
- 2 "to provide for a study;".
- 3 3. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.