

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 542

Introduced by Synowiecki, 7

Read first time January 17, 2007

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to state intent; to
2 appropriate funds; to create the Enhanced Services and
3 Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles; and to provide
4 duties.

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

1 Section 1. There is hereby appropriated (1) \$54,433,029
2 from the General Fund for FY2007-08 and (2) \$45,159,623 from the
3 General Fund for FY2008-09 to the Department of Health and Human
4 Services, for Program 365.

5 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that
6 beginning with FY2008-09 \$10,419,902 shall be appropriated from
7 the General Fund to the Enhanced Services and Capacity Expansion
8 Fund for Juveniles.

9 Sec. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to
10 discontinue funding of juvenile state services at the Hastings
11 Regional Center and to reallocate funding from the Department of
12 Health and Human Services, Program 365, to the Enhanced Services
13 and Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles.

14 Sec. 4. (1) There is hereby created the Enhanced Services
15 and Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles. The fund shall be
16 administered by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System.
17 The Nebraska Health and Human Services System may contract with
18 licensed nonprofit service organizations to enhance the depth and
19 reach of juvenile behavioral services and provide a resource pool
20 for capacity expansion of such services. Funds available from the
21 Enhanced Services and Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles shall
22 only be used for this purpose. No expenditures for permanent and
23 temporary salaries and per diems for state employees shall be
24 made from funds appropriated to the Enhanced Services and Capacity
25 Expansion Fund for Juveniles.

1 (2) The following activities are eligible for assistance
2 from the fund:

3 (a) Development of enhanced capacity for community-based
4 juvenile services;

5 (b) New construction and rehabilitation or acquisition of
6 buildings or facilities that support capacity expansion of juvenile
7 treatment services;

8 (c) Enhancing the array of available juvenile services in
9 local communities; and

10 (d) Specialized training and ongoing professional
11 education for individuals that provide direct behavioral health
12 service care for juveniles.

13 (3) Any money in the fund available for investment
14 shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
15 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
16 Investment Act.

17 Sec. 5. With funds from the Enhanced Services and
18 Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles, the Nebraska Health and
19 Human Services System shall establish an integrated system of
20 behavioral health services for children with serious emotional
21 disorders and their families. The integrated system shall be based
22 upon the following principles:

23 (1) Services are family-driven, culturally and racially
24 responsive, and youth-guided;

25 (2) Services are community-based, with decisionmaking

1 responsibility and management at the community level;

2 (3) Services are comprehensive, addressing the child's
3 physical, educational, social, mental, and emotional needs; and

4 (4) Services are provided in the least restrictive
5 setting consistent with effective services and as close to the
6 child's home as appropriate.