

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 155

Introduced by Johnson, 37; Aguilar, 35;

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine and provide recommendations relating to all of the factors necessary to provide the workforce necessary to provide quality in-home services. The Nebraska Long Term Care Plan of 1997 and the Medicaid Reform Plan of 2005 both recognize home- and community-based services as a needed service and an alternative to residential nursing home care. LB 321 (2007) that appropriates funds for state government expenses includes funds for HHS to expand the capacity for in-home services for the aged and disabled and provides funding to develop a rate-setting methodology for all long-term services. This session, the Health and Human Services Committee considered legislative bills that raised critical issues concerning: (a) The workforce necessary to provide in-home services and workers, (b) the ability to screen in-home workers who care for persons in their home, (c) the training needed by in-home workers, (d) the ability of in-home workers to access training programs, (e) the need to coordinate care and match services to persons who need in-home services, and (f) methods to monitor the quality of services provided. Further, legislative action is necessary and appropriate to address the issues that have been recognized for over a decade in the provision of services and the efficiency of money spent for in-home and

community based services.

The Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, in cooperation with stakeholders, should study the in-home services industry, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The number of providers needed to meet current and future service needs;

(2) A system to implement basic provider training programs and provider and consumer communication programs;

(3) Implementation of a statewide system or registry to be used to coordinate in-home services and consumer needs at the direction of the consumer or a consumer's care coordinator;

(4) The rate or wage increase necessary for recruitment, retention, and stabilization of the workforce; and

(5) Implementation of a system of accountability for appropriate levels of quality service provision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.