

## ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 307

Introduced by Wightman, 36; Gay, 14; Harms, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine Nebraska's aid to dependent children program, and more specifically, how the state is meeting its federal work participation rate requirements and whether improvements might be made in the administration of the program so that recipients might be allowed to participate in postsecondary education as their core work activity beyond twelve months.

While it is state policy that higher education is one of the most effective means to help move families permanently out of poverty and participation in postsecondary education is one of the most effective parts of the aid to dependent children program, the Department of Health and Human Services has raised concerns about its ability to meet the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families work participation rate requirements if postsecondary education is defined as a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree.

In order to further this interim study, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the committees with the following information:

(1) The actual work participation rate for Nebraska's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for the previous

calendar year and the estimated work participation rate for the current calendar year;

(2) An explanation and supporting documentation of how the department arrived at the work participation estimate;

(3) The number of work-eligible aid to dependent children program recipients who are not counted as meeting the federal work participation rate and the activities in which these persons are involved;

(4) The number of Nebraska's aid to dependent children program recipients who are engaged in a bachelor's degree program as a work activity;

(5) The number of Nebraska's aid to dependent children program recipients who are engaged in an associate's degree program as a work activity;

(6) The percentage of Nebraska's aid to dependent children program recipients, broken down by work activity, who obtained employment paying a wage equal to or exceeding one hundred percent of the federal poverty guideline, one hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty guideline, and two hundred percent of the federal poverty guideline; and

(7) The percentage of aid to dependent children program recipients, broken down by work activity, who remain employed after twelve months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months after leaving Nebraska's aid to dependent children program.

Further, the interim study will:

(1) Examine whether the department should be statutorily required to track and report any of the aforementioned information, especially to the extent that such information is not currently

tracked;

(2) Evaluate the impact on the work participation rate requirements of implementing work components that are inconsistent with federal definitions which cannot be counted toward the required performance requirements;

(3) Evaluate the implementation of the four-month transitional grant implemented in Laws 2006, LB 351, and its impact on meeting the work participation rate requirements;

(4) Evaluate how monitoring of private sector Temporary Assistance for Needy Families case management contracts impact meeting mandated federal performance requirements; and

(5) Evaluate how final federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families regulations that go into effect October 1, 2009, will impact the work participation rate requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services and the Appropriations Committees of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.