

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB371

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 11, 2009
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Campbell
One Liner: Change Medicaid Reform Plan and Medicaid Reform Council provisions

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Campbell, Gay, Gloor, Howard, Pankonin, Stuthman, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:	Representing:
Senator Campbell	Introducer
Don Pederson	Nebraska Medicaid Reform Council
Brendon Polt	Nebraska Health Care Association
Rebecca Gould	Nebraska Appleseed

Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 371 changes and eliminates provisions of the Medical Assistance Act relating to the Medicaid Reform Council (council).

Current law requires the Department of Health and Human Services (department) to prepare a "biennial summary and analysis of the medical assistance program for legislative and public review" and submit a draft copy of the report to the council no later than October 1 of every even-numbered year. LB 371 requires that the report be submitted annually, requires submission of a draft report no later than September 15 of each year, requires the council to conduct a public meeting on the report no later than October 1 of each year, rather than October 15 of every even-numbered year, and requires submission of a final report to the council no later than December 1 of each year, rather than every even-numbered year. New language is added to require that the department's final report include "a response to each specific recommendation provided by the council."

The bill changes council membership provisions. The bill adds the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature (committee) or his or her designee as a member of the council, eliminates a termination date for the council, and provides for staggered four-year terms for council members beginning June 30, 2010.

The bill revises duties of the council. Current law requires the council to "oversee and support implementation of reforms to the medical assistance program, including, but not limited to, reforms such as those contained in the Medicaid Reform Plan." LB 371 requires the council to "oversee and provide recommendations to the department and the chairperson of the committee" regarding such reforms, and requires the council to conduct public meetings at least quarterly. Current law requires the council to conduct at least two public meetings annually.

The bill requires the department to "provide the council with any reports, data, analysis, or other such information upon which the department relied, which provided a basis for the department's proposed reforms, or which the

department otherwise intends to present to the council at least two weeks prior to the quarterly meeting."

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment (AM 607) replaces the bill as introduced but retains substantive provisions of the original bill. The amendment requires the Governor to appoint members of the Medicaid Reform Council, rather than the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee and places the council under the Department of Health and Human Services rather than the Legislature.

Tim Gay, Chairperson