

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 158

Introduced by Gay, 14.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to conduct research and provide recommendations for substantive reform of Nebraska's health care delivery system and health care financing system to ensure the provision of high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care coverage for all Nebraskans.

This study shall be conducted by a select committee consisting of two members of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature appointed by the chairperson of the committee, two members of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature appointed by the chairperson of the committee, two members of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature appointed by the chairperson of the committee, and three additional members who are not members of such committees, with one member appointed by each chairperson of such committees. The chairperson of the select committee shall be the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee unless he or she is not appointed to the select committee, in which case the chairperson of the select committee shall be one of the two members of the Health and Human Services Committee who were appointed to the select committee, selected by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

In conducting the study, the select committee shall consult with employers, small businesses, consumers, insurers, health care providers, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Insurance, and other interested parties.

Issues considered by the select committee may include, but shall not be limited to:

(1) The anticipated effect of national health care reform initiatives on Nebraska;

(2) The role of employer-sponsored insurance and public programs in providing health care coverage for Nebraskans;

(3) The large number of Nebraskans who are uninsured or underinsured;

(4) The cost shift imposed on Nebraska employers and consumers who purchase health insurance by the underfunding of public programs and the high levels of uncompensated care borne by hospitals and clinics;

(5) Policy options available to reduce the number of Nebraskans who are uninsured or underinsured, make private health insurance more affordable for businesses and individuals, and strengthen public programs for low-income Nebraskans;

(6) The desirability and feasibility of establishing a state plan to provide Nebraskans access to affordable health insurance coverage; and

(7) Available funding options to assure a financially sustainable and affordable health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee, the

Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, and the Appropriations Committee 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 their study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature on or before December 31, 2009.