

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB540

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 09, 2011
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Health and Human Services
One Liner: Require a medicaid waiver relating to family planning services

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 4 Senators Campbell, Cook, Gloor, Howard
Nay: 3 Senators Bloomfield, Krist, Lambert
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Michelle Chaffee
Carol Russell
Kay Oestmann
Laura Urbanec

Jean Phelan
Jean Brinkman

James Goddard
Terry Werner

Representing:

Health and Human Services Committee
March of Dimes
Public Health Association of Nebraska PHAN
Family Planning Council of NE and Grand Island
Central Health Center
Nebraska Nurses Association
Family Planning - Family Health Services, Tecumseh,
NE; and Family Planning Council of Nebraska
Nebraska Appleseed
NE Chapter of the Nat'l Assn of Social Workers

Opponents:

Greg Schleppenbach

Representing:

Nebraska Catholic Conference

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 540 (Health and Human Services Committee) Require a Medicaid waiver relating to family planning services

LB 540 relates to the state medical assistance program (Medicaid). The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a Medicaid waiver or an amendment to an existing waiver for the purpose of providing medical assistance for family planning services for persons whose family earned income is at or below one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level.

The state match for family planning services is 10% general funds with 90% paid by the federal government.

Public testimony during the LB 540 hearing stated that twenty seven states utilize the Family Planning Expansion. At that time, Minnesota since providing these services to low-income and high-risk women, the number of abortions in the state has dropped significantly, and Minnesota had the fourth-lowest teen pregnancy rate in the nation. Minnesota estimated that for every \$1 spent on family planning, \$4 is saved in general funds.

An evaluation of other states' family planning waivers was conducted by the CNA Corporation under contract with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). The report published in 2003 showed family planning waivers saved millions of dollars in all six state programs that were evaluated. The states were Alabama, Arkansas, California, New Mexico, Oregon and South Carolina. Utilizing similar methodology in Nebraska the first full year of saving would be FY15 estimated at \$12,638,080 (\$5,479,871 GF and \$7,158,209 FF)

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment clarifies that no state funds shall be utilized to pay for abortion services and updates the date for the time frame for application for the waiver to July 1, 2012.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson