

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 92

Introduced by Howard, 9; Cook, 13; Cornett, 45; McGill, 26; Wallman,
30.

Read first time January 06, 2011

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to public child welfare services; to amend
- 2 sections 68-1207 and 68-1207.01, Reissue Revised Statutes
- 3 of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to caseloads;
- 4 and to repeal the original sections.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 68-1207, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 68-1207 The Department of Health and Human Services shall
4 supervise all public child welfare services as described by law. The
5 department shall establish and maintain caseloads to carry out child
6 welfare services which provide for adequate, timely, and indepth
7 investigations and services to children and families. In establishing
8 the standards for such caseloads, the department shall (1) include
9 the workload factors that may differ due to geographic
10 responsibilities, office location, and the travel required to provide
11 a timely response in the investigation of abuse and neglect, the
12 protection of children, and the provision of services to children and
13 families in a uniform and consistent statewide manner and (2)
14 consider workload standards recommended by national child welfare
15 organizations and factors related to the attainment of such
16 standards, except that no caseload shall exceed by more than two
17 cases the caseload standard recommended by a national organization
18 the primary purpose of which is advocating public policies to aid
19 children and youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, family
20 disruption, or a range of other factors that jeopardize their safety,
21 permanence, or well-being and for their families and caregivers. The
22 department shall consult with the appropriate employee representative
23 in establishing such standards.

24 To carry out the provisions of this section, the
25 Legislature shall provide funds for additional staff.

1 Sec. 2. Section 68-1207.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 68-1207.01 (1) The Department of Health and Human
4 Services shall annually provide a report to the Legislature and
5 Governor outlining the caseloads of child protective services and all
6 private entities under contract with the State of Nebraska to provide
7 such services, the factors considered in their establishment, and the
8 fiscal resources necessary for their maintenance. Such report shall
9 include:

10 ~~(1)(a)~~ (a) A comparison of caseloads established by the
11 department and all private entities under contract with the State of
12 Nebraska to provide such services with the workload standards
13 recommended by national child welfare organizations along with the
14 amount of fiscal resources necessary to maintain such caseloads in
15 Nebraska;

16 ~~(2)(a)~~ ~~(b)(i)~~ (i) The number of child welfare services
17 caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and
18 child welfare services workers, providing services directly to
19 children and families, who are under contract with the State of
20 Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the
21 State of Nebraska and ~~(b)~~ ~~(ii)~~ (ii) statistics on the average length of
22 employment in such positions, statewide and by health and human
23 services area;

24 ~~(3)(a)~~ ~~(c)(i)~~ (i) The average caseload of child welfare
25 services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of

1 Nebraska and child welfare services workers, providing services
2 directly to children and families, who are under contract with the
3 State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with
4 the State of Nebraska and ~~(b)~~(ii) the outcomes of such cases,
5 including the number of children reunited with their families,
6 children adopted, children in guardianships, placement of children
7 with relatives, and other permanent resolutions established,
8 statewide and by health and human services area; and

9 ~~(4)~~(d) The average cost of training child welfare
10 services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of
11 Nebraska and child welfare services workers, providing services
12 directly to children and families, who are under contract with the
13 State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with
14 the State of Nebraska, statewide and by health and human services
15 area.

16 (5) Failure to issue the report required by subsection
17 (1) of this section by July 1 of each year shall result in the unpaid
18 suspension of the chief executive officer of the department until the
19 report is issued.

20 Sec. 3. Original sections 68-1207 and 68-1207.01, Reissue
21 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.