

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 537

Introduced by McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to gather data and develop recommendations on the unmet needs of and gaps in services available to youth who transition or "age out" of Nebraska's foster care system. In conducting the study, the committee shall consult with youth with foster care experience, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other parties who may have relevant information. This interim study may include, but shall not be limited to:

(1) A collection of data on issues identified as part of LR 305 (2011), including those issues identified by youth who participated in LR 305, such as gaps in the Former Ward Program and issues involving homelessness, access to health care, availability of independent living services, and lack of permanency. Methods of data collection may include gathering and analyzing existing data and conducting statewide focus groups of youth with foster care experience and other stakeholders;

(2) An examination of the experiences of other states that have extended foster care services to youth up to age twenty-one or that offer other extended services, which may include analyzing trends and outcomes in other states and seeking feedback from youth and young adults who received extended foster care services; and

(3) Consideration of how solutions to issues facing older youth in foster care and those who age out of the system may be incorporated into

the statewide strategic plan discussed in LB 821 (2012), if LB 821 is adopted, and other child welfare reform efforts.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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