

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB243

Hearing Date: Thursday February 19, 2015
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: Create a pilot project relating to family finding services

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Riepe, Kolterman, Crawford, Howard, Cook, Campbell, Baker
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kate Bolz
Ron Uhlig
Joni Ramsey
Payne Ackerman
Julia Tse
Kim Hawekotte
Christen White
Mary Bostic
Kim Arkfeld
Sarah Helvey

Representing:

District 29
Christian Heritage
Christian Heritage
Christian Heritage
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Foster Care Review Office
Nebraska Families Collaborative
Self
Nebraska Children's Home Society
Nebraska Appleseed

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB243 was drafted with input from several child placing agencies, to provide support for services to help find extended family of children who become wards of the state.

Section-by-section description:

Section (1): Legislative intent regarding foster care.

Section (2): Defines terms including fictive kin.

Section (3): Describes family finding and who will participate.

Section (4): Creates a pilot project to provide family finding services in each service area, terminates on June 30, 2019.

Section (5): Sets out duties of DHHS under the family finding pilot project.

Section (6): Appropriates 3 million dollars per year to the project from the general fund until 2018-19 to carry out the family finding pilot project.

Section (7): Describes data to be collected by DHHS.

Section (8): Requires DHHS to work with an academic institution to perform an independent evaluation of the pilot

project.

Section (9): Gives authority to DHHS to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.

Explanation of amendments:

AM787 to LB243 makes changes requested by the Department of Health and Human Services on the definition of family finding. Limits the pilot project to two or more service areas instead of each service area. Reduces the funding from \$3,000,000 to \$1,500,000. Includes contract monitoring and oversight of the pilot program.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson