

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB320

Hearing Date: Thursday February 05, 2015
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: Adopt the Aging and Disability Resource Center Act

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Baker, Campbell, Cook, Howard, Crawford, Kolterman
Nay: 1 Senator Riepe
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kate Bolz
Mark Intermill
Vincent Litwinowicz
June Pederson
Linda Black
Julie Kaminski
Larry Fritz
Lynn Redding
Kathy Hoell
Michael Chittenden
Nick Faustman

Sarah Swanson

Representing:

District 29
AARP
Self
Nebraska Association of Area Agencies on Aging
MS Society
Leading Age Nebraska
Self
Self
NESILC
The Arc of Nebraska
Nebraska Nursing Facility Association; Nebraska Assisted Living Association
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB320 came out of a recommendation from the Aging Nebraskans Task Force strategic plan from December 2014 to "strengthen Nebraska's system of Aging and Disability Resource Centers to ensure that individuals and family caregivers have access to the information they need when they need it." The act requires DHHS to develop rules and regs to certify Aging and Disability Resource centers, which will be provided and supervised by or subcontracted by the Area Agencies on Aging. Aging and disability resource centers will provide information about services in the community available to the aging or disabled.

Section-by-section description:

Section (1): Sections 1-11 are to be known as the Aging and Disability Resource Center Act

Section (2): Identifies the underlying legislative intent of and rationale for the Act, primarily that the state should have a

streamlined system for handling the growing aging population in the state.

Section (3): Mandates the establishment of aging and disability resource centers, and lays out the requirements of those centers.

Section (4): Identifies purposes of the Act, which include increased access to information and resources on aging and disabilities

Section (5): Defines terms for purposes of this Act

Section (6): Requires resource centers to provide information on community resources relating to care, financing, service providers; assistance with access to public benefits; individual counseling; convenient point of entry to long-term care programs; a plan for identifying unmet community needs; facilitation to make sure eligible persons have access to appropriate services.

Section (7): Resource centers must be certified by the department, must meet certain criteria, and will be subject to periodic reviews.

Section (8): Sets out criteria for each area agency on aging, which all must contract with a resource center to make a plan to provide people in their area with information regarding the services offered by the resource center. The plan must be reviewed by the department, which will either approve or deny the plan. Upon approval, the plan must be evaluated according to the predetermined criteria.

Section (9): Requires aging and disability resource centers to develop public relations campaigns. The campaigns will be funded according to section 10 of this Act.

Section (10): The department will consult with the agencies and develop a funding formula to allocate funds to each resource center.

Section (11): Sets out the department's reimbursement plan for the area agencies that operate the resource centers.

Explanation of amendments:

AM767 replaces the bill. Creates a demonstration project for Aging and Disability Resource Centers, to develop and evaluate data on such centers. Requires the state to establish three demonstration projects to operate through June 30, 2018. Requires the State Unit on Aging of the Long-Term Care Services section of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care of the Department of Health and Human Services to award ADRC grants after a request for proposal process, and allows the area agencies on aging to apply for such grants. Requires the department to contract for an evaluation of the ADRC demonstration projects, to be presented to the Legislature. Requires the department to reimburse the area agencies on aging participating in the demonstration project.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson