

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB441

Hearing Date: Thursday February 19, 2015
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: Change provisions relating to the bridge to independence program

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Campbell, Cook, Crawford, Howard, Baker
Nay:	2	Senators Kolterman, Riepe
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kate Bolz
Sarah Helvey
Kayla Bailey
Kim Hawekotte
Julia Tse
Jay Sears

Representing:

District 29
Nebraska Appleseed
Project Everlast
Foster Care Review Office
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Nebraska State Education Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB441 updates provisions of extended guardianship and the bridge to independence program for former foster youth.

Section-by-section description:

Section (1): Amends 43-284.02 of the Nebraska Juvenile Code to ensure children in guardianships have access to health care coverage.

Section (2): Amends 43-285 to update language referring to juveniles as children and to add a provision regarding the final hearing before DHHS jurisdiction is terminated to identify available resources.

Section (3): Amends 43-905, removing expired start date for the bridge to independence program and mandating extended medical assistance services coverage.

Section (4): Amends 43-1312.01, to include medical care for youth in extended guardianships.

Section (5): Amends 43-4501 of the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act to include section 12 of this act.

Section (6): Amends 43-4503 to clarify language regarding extended guardianships.

Section (7): Amends 43-4504 to allow youth adjudicated by a tribal court or youth in certain kinship placements to be eligible for bridge to independence. Includes an operative date of July 1, 2105.

Section (8): Amends 43-4505 to clarify provisions and call for a new plan to be put in place for young adults with no previous independent living experience.

Section (9): Amends 43-4506 to decrease the amount of time for DHHS to begin providing services. Adds provision

requiring DHHS to determine income eligibility for Title IV-E funds.

Section (10): Amends 43-4508 to reduce the time required for DHHS to inform the court of the child's situation. Updates language regarding foster care maintenance payments for youth in the program. Adds provisions relating to the permanency review hearing and court proceedings. Requires confidentiality in proceedings unless waived by the young adult, but allows the Foster Care Review Office to review all such files.

Section (11): Amends 43-4511 to require the department to provide medical assistance for those in extended guardianships and certain kinship placements; adds an effective date of July 1, 2015 to this section.

Section (12): New provision specifying that young adults eligible for both extended guardianship assistance and the bridge to independence program can choose to participate in either program. Requires DHHS to develop notice to young adults of extended guardianships and bridge to independence.

Section (13): Amends 43-4512 relating to those who will receive extended adoption assistance and medical care under the medical assistance program.

Section (14): Amends 43-4513 regarding the report of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee. Changes statutory references to include extended guardianship and adoption assistance.

Section (15): Amends 43-4514, calling for an amended state plan amendment be submitted to seek Title IV-E funding for newly eligible young adults in certain kinship arrangements. Removes outdated language. Adds provision mandating DHHS to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.

Section (16): Amends 71-824 of the Children and Family Behavioral Health Support Act, providing for medical care in addition to extended guardianship assistance payments.

Section (17): Repealer section

Section (18): Emergency clause

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson