

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 291**

Introduced by Campbell, 25.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study stroke systems of care. The rapid identification, diagnosis, and treatment of strokes can save the lives of stroke patients, and in some cases can reverse neurological damage such as paralysis and speech and language impairments, leaving stroke patients with few or no detrimental neurological effects.

Despite significant advances in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, strokes are the fifth leading cause of death and the leading cause of disability. With the aging of the population, the number of persons who have strokes is projected to increase. Forecasting by the American Heart Association predicts stroke prevalence to increase by 24.9% between 2010 and 2030.

The cost of treating strokes continues to increase. In Nebraska, total hospital charges for strokes increased by over \$54 million between 2001 and 2010, with an average charge of \$31,100 per stroke hospitalization in 2010. Nationally, direct medical costs for strokes are expected to increase by 238% from \$28.3 billion in 2010 to \$95.6 billion by 2030.

A fragmented and disorganized delivery system prohibits patients from receiving acute treatment. An effective system is needed in our communities in order to treat stroke patients in a timely manner and to improve the overall outcomes of these patients. Creation and enhancement of stroke systems of care provides patients the highest quality care while ensuring seamless transitions along the care continuum.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Designating comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers, and acute stroke-ready hospitals;

(2) Adoption and distribution of a nationally recognized stroke triage assessment tool;

(3) Establishment of pre-hospital protocols and related assessment, treatment, and transport of patients by licensed emergency medical service (EMS) providers in the state;

(4) Training for EMS and public safety answering points personnel on assessment and treatment of stroke patients;

(5) The costs and logistics of implementing and maintaining a statewide stroke database to improve quality of care; and

(6) Coverage for the cost of health services provided through medicine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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.