

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 544

Introduced by Crawford, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the alternative response demonstration projects, also known as the alternative response pilot project, created in 2014 by LB 853 and to review the pilot project's implementation by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The study committee shall also examine the coordination of informal resources available in communities and formal assistance provided through state systems in order to better serve families in the child welfare system and to prevent at-risk families from entering the system.

This study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) The effectiveness of the implementation and administration of the alternative response pilot project in strengthening families and preventing out-of-home placement, including issues that may be addressed in the future reauthorization and expansion of the pilot project;

(2) Systemic barriers to optimal effectiveness and accessibility of the alternative response pilot project in serving families for which the project was originally intended, including rules and regulations, mental and behavioral health service gaps, and procedural requirements;

(3) The interaction or coordination of services available from DCFS, other divisions within DHHS administering public assistance programs, and informal community-based services or programs that support families within or at risk of entering the child welfare system and how such interaction or coordination can better protect children and families and reduce the future risk of maltreatment; and

(4) The feasibility of extending certain structures and service systems

utilized formally and informally by alternative response sites to cases that come to the attention of the statewide child abuse and neglect hotline but are not accepted for service provision, in order to prevent subsequent allegations of parental abuse or neglect in a comprehensive manner.

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