

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB816

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 17, 2016

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 816 allows for records of DHHS institutions to be released as allowed by HIPAA and terminates reporting requirements relating to children's behavioral health.

Current Nebraska law is more restrictive than the federal Health Insurance Privacy and Portability Act (HIPAA) regarding the exchange of health information for individuals served in Nebraska's institutions. This bill will align state law with HIPAA requirements, which provide the mechanism for patient privacy but also allow for certain sharing of information.

In addition, this bill terminates reporting requirements relating to children's behavioral health. LB 603, passed in 2009, established the Children's Behavioral Health Helpline (referred to as the Nebraska Family Helpline), Family Navigator Program, and Post Adoption/Post Guardianship Services. It required an annual report to the Legislature. This bill eliminates the annual reporting requirement summarizing the activities of the programs.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Jim Scheer