

AMENDMENTS TO LB732

Introduced by Health and Human Services.

1           1. Insert the following new sections:

2           Section 1. Section 43-4203, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
3 amended to read:

4           43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall work with  
5 administrators from each of the service areas designated pursuant to  
6 section 81-3116, the teams created pursuant to section 28-728, local  
7 foster care review boards, child advocacy centers, the teams created  
8 pursuant to the Supreme Court's Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative,  
9 community stakeholders, and advocates for child welfare programs and  
10 services to establish networks in each of such service areas. Such  
11 networks shall permit collaboration to strengthen the continuum of  
12 services available to child welfare agencies and to provide resources for  
13 children and juveniles outside the child protection system. Each service  
14 area shall develop its own unique strategies to be included in the  
15 statewide strategic plan. The Department of Health and Human Services  
16 shall assist in identifying the needs of each service area.

17           (2)(a) The commission shall create a committee to examine state  
18 policy regarding the prescription of psychotropic drugs for children who  
19 are wards of the state and the administration of such drugs to such  
20 children. Such committee shall review the policy and procedures for  
21 prescribing and administering such drugs and make recommendations to the  
22 commission for changes in such policy and procedures.

23           (b) The commission shall create a committee to examine the Office of  
24 Juvenile Services and the Juvenile Services Division of the Office of  
25 Probation Administration. Such committee shall review the role and  
26 effectiveness of out-of-home placements utilized in the juvenile justice  
27 system, including the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, and

1 make recommendations to the commission on the juvenile justice continuum  
2 of care, including what populations should be served in out-of-home  
3 placements and what treatment services should be provided at the centers  
4 in order to appropriately serve those populations. Such committee shall  
5 also review how mental and behavioral health services are provided to  
6 juveniles in residential placements and the need for such services  
7 throughout Nebraska and make recommendations to the commission relating  
8 to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system. The committee  
9 shall collaborate with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile  
10 Justice Institute, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for  
11 Health Policy, the behavioral health regions as established in section  
12 71-807, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop  
13 recommendations. The recommendations shall include a plan to implement a  
14 continuum of care in the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of  
15 Nebraska families, including specific recommendations for the  
16 rehabilitation and treatment model. The recommendations shall be  
17 delivered to the commission and electronically to the Judiciary Committee  
18 of the Legislature annually by September ~~December~~ 1.

19 (c) The commission may organize committees as it deems necessary.  
20 Members of the committees may be members of the commission or may be  
21 appointed, with the approval of the majority of the commission, from  
22 individuals with knowledge of the committee's subject matter,  
23 professional expertise to assist the committee in completing its assigned  
24 responsibilities, and the ability to collaborate within the committee and  
25 with the commission to carry out the powers and duties of the commission.  
26 No member of any committee created pursuant to this section shall have  
27 any private financial interest, profit, or benefit from any work of such  
28 committee.

29 (d) The Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee created pursuant  
30 to section 43-4208 and the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee  
31 created pursuant to section 43-4212 are under the jurisdiction of the

1 commission.

2 (3) The commission shall work with the office of the State Court  
3 Administrator, as appropriate, and entities which coordinate facilitated  
4 conferencing as described in section 43-247.03. Facilitated conferencing  
5 shall be included in statewide strategic plan discussions by the  
6 commission. Facilitated conferencing shall continue to be utilized and  
7 maximized, as determined by the court of jurisdiction, during the  
8 development of the statewide strategic plan. Funding and contracting with  
9 mediation centers approved by the Office of Dispute Resolution to provide  
10 facilitated conferencing shall continue to be provided by the office of  
11 the State Court Administrator at an amount of no less than the General  
12 Fund transfer under subsection (1) of section 43-247.04.

13 (4) The commission shall gather information and communicate with  
14 juvenile justice specialists of the Office of Probation Administration  
15 and county officials with respect to any county-operated practice model  
16 participating in the Crossover Youth Program of the Center for Juvenile  
17 Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

18 (5) The commission shall coordinate and gather information about the  
19 progress and outcomes of the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project  
20 established pursuant to section 43-4101.

21 (6) The commission shall develop a system-of-care plan beginning  
22 with prevention services through treatment services for the child welfare  
23 system based on relevant data and evidence-based practices to meet the  
24 specific needs of each area of the state. Such system-of-care plan shall  
25 include services that are goal-driven and outcome-based and shall  
26 evaluate the feasibility of utilizing performance-based contracting for  
27 specific child welfare services, including the feasibility of additional  
28 contractual requirements for service providers requiring services to all  
29 children without an option to deny service.

30 (7) The commission shall analyze case management workforce issues  
31 and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of

1 the Legislature regarding:

2 (a) Salary comparisons with other states and the current pay  
3 structure based on job descriptions;

4 (b) Utilization of incentives for persons who work in the area of  
5 child welfare;

6 (c) Evidence-based training requirements for persons who work in the  
7 area of child welfare and their supervisors; and

8 (d) Collaboration with the University of Nebraska to increase and  
9 sustain such workforce.

10 Sec. 3. Section 43-4218, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is  
11 amended to read:

12 43-4218 (1)(a) The Normalcy Task Force is created. On July 1, 2017,  
13 the Normalcy Task Force shall become the Nebraska Strengthening Families  
14 Act Committee.

15 (b)(i) Beginning July 1, 2016, until July 1, 2017, the Normalcy Task  
16 Force shall monitor and make recommendations regarding the implementation  
17 in Nebraska of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening  
18 Families Act, Public Law 113-183, as such act existed on January 1, 2016.

19 (ii) On and after July 1, 2017, the Nebraska Strengthening Families  
20 Act Committee shall monitor and make recommendations regarding the  
21 implementation in Nebraska of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and  
22 Strengthening Families Act, Public Law 113-183, as such act existed on  
23 January 1, 2017, and the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act.

24 (2) Until July 1, 2017, the members of the task force, and on and  
25 after July 1, 2017, the members of the committee shall include, but not  
26 be limited to, (a) representatives from the legislative, executive, and  
27 judicial branches of government. The representatives from the legislative  
28 and judicial branches shall be nonvoting, ex officio members, (b) no  
29 fewer than three young adults currently or previously in foster care  
30 which may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project Everlast or  
31 a similar youth support or advocacy group, (c) a representative from the

1 juvenile probation system, (d) the executive director of the Foster Care  
2 Review Office, (e) one or more representatives from a child welfare  
3 advocacy organization, (f) one or more representatives from a child  
4 welfare service agency, (g) one or more representatives from an agency  
5 providing independent living services, (h) one or more representatives of  
6 a child-care institution as defined in section 43-4703, (i) one or more  
7 current or former foster parents, (j) one or more parents who have  
8 experience in the foster care system, (k) one or more professionals who  
9 have relevant practical experience such as a caseworker, and (l) one or  
10 more guardians ad litem who practice in juvenile court.

11 (3) On or before July 1, 2016, the Nebraska Children's Commission  
12 shall appoint the members of the task force. On July 1, 2017, the members  
13 of the task force shall become members of the committee, shall serve the  
14 amount of time remaining on their initial terms of office, and are  
15 eligible for reappointment by the Nebraska Children's Commission. Members  
16 shall be appointed for terms of two years. The commission shall appoint a  
17 chairperson or chairpersons of the committee and may fill vacancies on  
18 the committee as such vacancies occur.

19 (4) The committee shall provide a written report with  
20 recommendations regarding the initial and ongoing implementation of the  
21 federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, as  
22 such act existed on January 1, 2017, and the Nebraska Strengthening  
23 Families Act and related efforts to improve normalcy for children in  
24 foster care and related populations to the Nebraska Children's  
25 Commission, the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature,  
26 the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Governor by  
27 September 1 ~~December 15~~ of each year. The report to the Health and Human  
28 Services Committee of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

29 Sec. 4. Section 43-4513, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
30 amended to read:

31 43-4513 (1) On or before July 1, 2013, the Nebraska Children's

1 Commission shall appoint a Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee to  
2 make recommendations to the department and the Nebraska Children's  
3 Commission regarding the bridge to independence program, extended  
4 guardianship assistance described in section 43-4511, and extended  
5 adoption assistance described in section 43-4512. The Bridge to  
6 Independence Advisory Committee shall meet on a biannual basis to advise  
7 the department and the Nebraska Children's Commission regarding ongoing  
8 implementation of the bridge to independence program, extended  
9 guardianship assistance described in section 43-4511, and extended  
10 adoption assistance described in section 43-4512 and shall provide a  
11 written report regarding ongoing implementation, including participation  
12 in the bridge to independence program, extended guardianship assistance  
13 described in section 43-4511, and extended adoption assistance described  
14 in section 43-4512 and early discharge rates and reasons obtained from  
15 the department, to the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Health and  
16 Human Services Committee of the Legislature, the department, and the  
17 Governor by September 1 ~~December 15th~~ of each year. By December 15, 2015,  
18 the committee shall develop specific recommendations for expanding to or  
19 improving outcomes for similar groups of at-risk young adults. The report  
20 to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be  
21 submitted electronically.

22 (2) The members of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee  
23 shall include, but not be limited to, (a) representatives from all three  
24 branches of government, and the representatives from the legislative and  
25 judicial branches of government shall be nonvoting, ex officio members,  
26 (b) no less than three young adults currently or previously in foster  
27 care, which may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project  
28 Everlast or a similar youth support or advocacy group, (c) one or more  
29 representatives from a child welfare advocacy organization, (d) one or  
30 more representatives from a child welfare service agency, and (e) one or  
31 more representatives from an agency providing independent living

1 services.

2 (3) Members of the committee shall be appointed for terms of two  
3 years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the chairperson  
4 of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as they occur.

5 2. Renumber the remaining sections and amend the repealer  
6 accordingly.