

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB225

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 01, 2017
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Crawford
One Liner: Change provisions relating to alternative response to a report of child abuse or neglect and provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Crawford, Erdman, Howard, Kolterman, Riepe, Linehan, Williams
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents: Senator Sue Crawford Ivy Svoboda Jamie Vetter Julia Tse Melodie Bellamy	Representing: Introducer Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers Family Advocacy Network Voices for Children in Nebraska Nebraska County Attorney's Association
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral: Doug Weinberg	Representing: DHHS

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 225 extends the alternative response pilot program until December 31, 2020, and allows the Department the ability to use alternative response statewide. Mandates the Department provide a briefing to the Nebraska Children's Commission by November 15, 2018. Mandates the Department provide the Nebraska Children's Commission regular updates on the challenges, barriers and opportunities that may occur if the alternative response implementation plan is made permanent. Add child advocacy centers to the mandated list the Department is to provide a copy of all reports relative to a case of suspected child abuse or neglect.

SECTION BY SECTION:

Section (1): Amends Section 28-712 to extend Alternative Response pilot program statewide. Require Department of Health and Human Services to brief Nebraska Children's Commission by November 15, 2018. Extends the date the Department may continue using alternative response to December 21, 2020. Adds a requirement of the Department to brief Nebraska Children's Commission on analysis to make plan permanent.

Section (2): Amend 28-712.01 to add child advocacy centers to the mandate list the department is to provide a copy of

all reports relative to a case of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Section (3): Repeal Section 28-712 and Section 28-712.01.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 611 incorporates LB 297, as amended by AM 365, LB 298 as amended by AM 537 and LB 336 as amended by AM 462.

Adds reporting requirement to the Nebraska Children's Commission and the Health and Human Services Committee by November 15, 2018. Report to outline, at a minimum, the challenges, barriers, and opportunities that may occur if the alternative response implementation plan is made permanent. Mandate the Department continue alternative response until December 31, 2020. Strikes outdated requirements regarding contract for demonstration project. Adds alternative plan response programmatic modifications including rules and regulations to requirement of Department to provide regular updates to the Nebraska Children's Commission. Remove outdated language regarding outdated public notice requirement, reporting requirements and demonstration project. Adds child advocacy center employees to be provided.

Adds Health and Human Services Cash Fund for fee charged.

Adds operative date of September 3, 2017 for Section 3 and 18.

Merv Riepe, Chairperson