

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 145

Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the importance of Title IV-E Funds and more specifically the federal adoption assistance program.

The adoption assistance program provides funds to states to facilitate the timely placement of children, who, due to special needs or circumstances, would otherwise be difficult to place, with adoptive families. Authorized under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the adoption assistance program provides federal matching funds, depending on the per capita income of the state. Assistance is contingent upon an approved state plan to administer the program. States must abide by reporting requirements to continue receiving funds. Funds are available for a one-time payment to assist with the costs of adopting a child as well as for monthly subsidies to adoptive families to assist with the care of the eligible child.

States may earn these adoption incentives in four ways: An increase in the number of children adopted from foster care; an increase in the number of children adopted at age nine or older; an increase in the number of children adopted with special needs and who are under the age of nine; or an increase in the rate at which children are adopted from foster care.

Questions to be addressed by the study include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) What is the average annual amount of funding received through the federal adoption assistance program since its inception in 1997;

(2) Is it necessary to readdress the components of the Nebraska state plan in order to maximize funding through the federal adoption assistance program; and

(3) What is the average annual number of children receiving Title IV-E

adoption assistance in Nebraska; and

4. How often has the use of adoption assistance funds resulted in family permanency for a child?

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