

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 156**

Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the ongoing implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 and related state law and policy. The study committee shall assess needs, issues, and innovative opportunities arising from the implementation of the federal act and shall determine the next steps for the Legislature to maximize and ensure compliance, by October 1, 2018, with the final rule of the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Examining current child care licensing application processes and process improvement;

(2) Reviewing opportunities to improve child care licensing regulations to exceed the minimum requirements necessary to protect the health and safety of children;

(3) Exploring how to track information on the extent of provider participation in the child care subsidy program and barriers to participation;

(4) Exploring how to track information on access to the child care subsidy program for eligible children and also by race and ethnicity;

(5) Reviewing payment rates as well as late or delayed payments and obstacles that may force some providers to stop serving or limit the number of children receiving subsidies;

(6) The estimated cost of care necessary to support higher-quality care;

(7) Reviewing payment rates in accordance with the results of the most current market rate survey;

(8) Exploring the continued use of the current market rate survey

methodology or the utilization of an alternative methodology in setting payment rates within the context of market conditions so that rates are sufficient to provide equal access to the full range of child care services, including high-quality care; and

(9) Reviewing the federal statutory requirement for equal access to available child care for families served through the child care subsidy program and ensuring payment rates meet new federal guidance.

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.