

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 238

Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the feasibility of acquiring funding for behavioral and mental health internship programs at the doctoral level in rural Nebraska. Internship programs are essential components of the learning process for behavioral and mental health professionals. To encourage such professional development, it is incumbent upon the Legislature to study possible sources of funding. There are a number of federal, state, and other underutilized funding sources that should be examined further to determine the availability of funds for behavioral and mental health internship programs. This study shall focus on professionals at the doctoral level serving individuals with severe mental illness in rural Nebraska and shall include the following:

(1) An inventory of underutilized funds appropriate for the use of internship programs intended for such professionals within the Nebraska medical assistance program, the University of Nebraska, state agencies, federal agencies, and other sources not yet realized;

(2) The identification of workforce demand for such professionals in rural Nebraska within both the private and public behavioral and mental health sectors;

(3) The identification of workforce issues for such professionals within both the private and public behavioral and mental health sectors; and

(4) Other strategy recommendations to address the shortage of such professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Appropriations 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.