

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 327

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

Read first time January 16, 2019

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to state intent to
- 2 appropriate funds to increase rates paid for certain behavioral
- 3 health services; and to earmark appropriations as prescribed.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase
2 funding to certain behavioral health providers utilizing data from the
3 multi-year cost model study project conducted by the Division of
4 Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

5 (2) The purpose of the cost model study project is to determine if
6 rates paid are reasonable given changes in the behavioral health field
7 over the past ten years and to make recommendations for change.

8 (3) The Legislature finds that the initial report from the cost
9 model study project shows rates paid to behavioral health providers from
10 seven percent below the actual cost of providing services to thirty-five
11 percent below the actual cost of providing services and that the average
12 rate paid is eighteen and one-tenth percent below the actual cost of
13 providing services.

14 (4) By substantially increasing behavioral health provider rates
15 paid during the biennium budget cycle, it is the intent of the
16 Legislature to ensure that providers of these services can continue to
17 serve Nebraskans in the medical assistance program and the probation
18 system.

19 (5) There is included in the appropriation by the One Hundred Sixth
20 Legislature, First Session, to the Supreme Court, Agency 5, Program 435,
21 Probation Community Corrections, \$X,XXX,XXX General Funds for FY2019-20
22 and \$X,XXX,XXX General Funds for FY2020-21 for a five percent increase
23 each year of the biennium in rates paid to providers of behavioral health
24 services, which shall only be used for such purpose.

25 (6) There is included in the appropriation by the One Hundred Sixth
26 Legislature, First Session, to the Department of Health and Human
27 Services, Agency 25, Program 348, Medical Assistance, \$X,XXX,XXX General
28 Funds for FY2019-20 and \$X,XXX,XXX General Funds for FY2020-21 for a five
29 percent increase each year of the biennium in rates paid for psychiatric
30 services for individuals age twenty-one years and older, mental health
31 and substance abuse treatment services for children and adolescents, and

1 rehabilitative psychiatric services, which shall only be used for such
2 purpose.

3 (7) The Office of Probation Administration shall submit a report on
4 or before December 1, 2019, December 1, 2020, and December 1, 2021,
5 providing detail as to how the provider rate increase provided under
6 subsection (5) of this section was distributed across all services and
7 providers. A copy of the report each year shall be submitted to the
8 Governor and electronically to the Appropriations Committee of the
9 Legislature.

10 (8) The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a
11 report on or before December 1, 2019, December 1, 2020, and December 1,
12 2021, providing detail as to how the provider rate increase provided
13 under subsection (6) of this section was distributed across all services
14 and providers. A copy of the report each year shall be submitted to the
15 Governor and electronically to the Appropriations Committee of the
16 Legislature.