

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB137

Hearing Date: Monday January 25, 2021
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Vargas
One Liner: Require reporting to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Day, Linehan, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 1 Senator McKinney

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Tony Vargas
Adam Feser
Melody Hobson

Representing:
Introducer
First Five Nebraska
State Board of Education

Opponents:
Becky Wisell

Representing:
Dept. of Health and Human Services

Neutral:

Representing:

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:
Jason Hayes

Representing:
NSEA

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 137 changes a provision within the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act requiring that, beginning September 1, 2022, each employee of a child care program as defined by the Child Care Licensing Act shall report his or her education, credentials, training and work history in the Nebraska Childhood Professional Record System (NECPRS).

It further clarifies that the permissive language allowing any child care or early childhood education provider to enter his or her relevant information into NECPRS applies only to those persons not otherwise required.

Explanation of amendments:

AM347 inserts a new section into the bill, adding clarification to Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-1914 that the Department of Health and Human Services is not responsible for verifying compliance with the new NECPRS reporting requirements. It then modifies Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-1962 to clarify that the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is responsible for such verification.

The amendment changes the implementation date for the new reporting requirements from September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Finally, AM347 adds explicit language requiring NDE to, upon request, make reasonable efforts to assist providers in complying with the new requirements.

Lynne Walz, Chairperson