

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB247

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 24, 2021
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Pansing Brooks
One Liner: Create the Mental Health Crisis Hotline Task Force

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	8	Senators Geist, Hilgers, Lathrop, Lowe, McCollister, Pansing Brooks, Slama, Vargas
Nay:	1	Senator Hughes
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Chris Triebisch
Annette Dubas
Tori Miyashiro

Representing:

Introducer on behalf of Senator Patty Pansing Brooks
Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations
National Association of Social Workers

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Sheri Dawson

Representing:

Department of Health and Human Services

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:

David Slattery
Tami Soper
Joe Kohout
Cora Schrader
Jon Cannon
Paige Gade
Brad Meurrens

Representing:

Nebraska Hospital Association
Boys Town
Nebraska Association of Regional Administration
Children's Hospital and Medical Center
Nebraska Association of County Officials
Lincoln Young Professionals Group
Disability Rights Nebraska

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 247 creates The Mental Health Crisis Hotline Task Force to develop an implementation plan for Nebraska to integrate and utilize the 988 crisis hotline established pursuant to the federal National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.

The voting members of the task force would include:

- (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee or the chairperson's designee;
- (b) The chairperson of the Judiciary Committee or the chairperson's designee;
- (c) The chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee or the chairperson's designee; and
- (d) Two at-large members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board.

Nonvoting, ex officio members of the task force would include:

- 1. The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or designee;
- 2. The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice or designee; and
- 3. The chairperson of the Public Service Commission or designee.

In addition, the following nonvoting members would be appointed by the voting legislative members of the task force through an application process and selected from among:

- (i) mental or behavioral health clinicians licensed to practice in the state;
- (ii) behavioral and mental health service providers;
- (iii) advocacy groups that focus on behavioral and mental health;
- (iv) educational institutions;
- (v) county and municipal law enforcement from each congressional district, and
- (vi) other representatives of county and municipal governments from each congressional district.

The task force would be required to file a report, no later than December 17, 2021, regarding its implementation plan and any recommendations, along with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out the recommendations.

The task force terminates on December 31, 2022.

LB247 includes the emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment simply corrects a technical error.

Dan Hughes, Chairperson