

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 213

Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraska students and the role of school psychologists in meeting such needs.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the prevalence of student mental and behavioral health needs in Nebraska, including the prevalence of internalizing and externalizing disorders in school-aged youth, suicide prevalence, the amount of alcohol and controlled substance use, and the number of students served through special education under the verification category of emotional disturbance;

(2) An examination of the current mental and behavioral health workforce, including the total number of certified school psychologists in Nebraska schools, student-to-school psychologist ratios, and the current number of faculty and student trainees in school psychology training programs;

(3) Evaluation and comparison of urban and rural barriers to school-based mental health access;

(4) Evaluation of professional development challenges and opportunities for school psychologists, including job satisfaction and graduate training opportunities; and

(5) Existing efforts to retain and expand Nebraska's mental and behavioral health workforce and opportunities to increase the number of certified school psychologists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH 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.