

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 87

Introduced by Dorn, 30.

Read first time January 10, 2025

Committee: Health and Human Services

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Commission for the Blind and Visually
2 Impaired; to amend section 71-8616, Reissue Revised Statutes of
3 Nebraska; to provide for development of a statewide support service
4 provider program for deaf-blind persons; to state intent regarding
5 appropriations; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to repeal the
6 original section; and to declare an emergency.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 71-8616, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 71-8616 (1) The commission shall develop a statewide support service
4 provider program for deaf-blind persons that facilitates a transition
5 from dependency to independent living and participation in society. All
6 property, equipment, supplies, and personnel which belonged to, were
7 allocated to, or were used to support the Division of Rehabilitation
8 Services for the Visually Impaired within the Department of Health and
9 Human Services prior to July 1, 2000, are transferred to the Commission
10 for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

11 (2) The program shall include, but not be limited to, (a) assistance
12 to live independently, (b) access to visual, situational, and
13 environmental information, (c) services of a human guide, (d)
14 facilitation of brief, casual exchanges of spoken or signed
15 conversations, and (e) assistance with daily living activities such as
16 transportation to and from appointments, reading and sorting mail, and
17 recipes and food labeling.

18 (3) The commission may contract with a private provider or may offer
19 the services directly through the program.

20 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one hundred
21 thousand dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2025-26 and one
22 hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year 2026-27 to
23 the commission for the statewide support service provider program.

24 ~~(2) All existing contracts and agreements in effect on July 1, 2000,~~
25 ~~as to the Division of Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired~~
26 ~~within the Department of Health and Human Services are binding and~~
27 ~~effective upon the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.~~

28 **Sec. 2.** Original section 71-8616, Reissue Revised Statutes of
29 Nebraska, is repealed.

30 **Sec. 3.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
31 passed and approved according to law.