

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 992

Introduced by Howard, 9.

Read first time January 21, 2014

Committee:

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to early childhood; to create and provide duties
- 2 for the Early Childhood Data Governing Body; and to
- 3 provide for reports.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Early Childhood Data Governing Body is
2 created. The purpose of the governing body is to develop a plan to
3 create and sustain a unified early childhood data system in Nebraska
4 which shall answer key questions about publicly funded early
5 childhood services, provide greater accountability for public
6 investment in services for children from birth through eight years of
7 age, and guide future investment in early childhood education and
8 child care services.

9 Sec. 2. The Early Childhood Data Governing Body shall
10 consist of the following members:

11 (1) The Governor or his or her designee;

12 (2) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

13 (3) A representative of the Nebraska P-16 Initiative;

14 (4) The administrator of the Office of Early Childhood of
15 the State Department of Education;

16 (5) The senior administrator of Data, Research and
17 Evaluation in the department;

18 (6) The data systems manager of the P-20 Technical Group
19 of Data, Research and Evaluation in the department;

20 (7) The director of the Step Up to Quality Child Care
21 program in the Office of Early Childhood in the department;

22 (8) The director of the Head Start Collaboration Office
23 of the Office of Early Childhood in the department;

24 (9) A representative of the Early Childhood Education
25 Endowment Board of Trustees;

1 (10) The chief executive officer of the Department of
2 Health and Human Services or his or her designee;

3 (11) The Director of Children and Family Services of the
4 Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health
5 and Human Services or his or her designee;

6 (12) The Director of Public Health of the Division of
7 Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services or his
8 or her designee;

9 (13) The Information Systems and Technology administrator
10 of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her
11 designee;

12 (14) A representative of children's services licensing
13 from the licensure unit of the Division of Public Health of the
14 department with experience in licensure of child care programs;

15 (15) A representative of the Division of Children and
16 Family Services of the department with experience with the federal
17 child care subsidy program; and

18 (16) A representative from the office of the Chief
19 Information Officer.

20 Sec. 3. The Early Childhood Data Governing Body may
21 establish a separate management team and a separate technical
22 assistance team to support and assist in the development and draft of
23 the plan required by section 4 of this act.

24 Sec. 4. (1) The Early Childhood Data Governing Body shall
25 propose a plan to develop a statewide early childhood unified data

1 system that will include fully integrated data from the State
2 Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human
3 Services to improve coordination and streamlining of services, guide
4 resource allocation, and provide greater accountability for
5 investment in early childhood services.

6 (2) The plan shall also address the following and
7 statewide early childhood data collection gaps as identified by the
8 governing body:

9 (a) Demographics of children from birth through five
10 years of age, including, but not limited to, age, ethnicity,
11 socioeconomic status, and program participation including early
12 intervention services for children with special needs;

13 (b) Criteria to identify the communities where children
14 are considered at risk of success in school and life based on the at-
15 risk factors established by the State Department of Education and
16 others as identified by the governing body;

17 (c) The number of children from birth through five years
18 of age who are identifiable as on track to succeed when they enter
19 kindergarten and beyond;

20 (d) The availability of high-quality early childhood
21 education and child care programs in Nebraska;

22 (e) The number of children participating in high-quality
23 early childhood education and child care programs;

24 (f) Children who have access to and are receiving support
25 services to ensure school readiness;

1 (g) Nebraska's early childhood education and child care
2 programs that possess characteristics of effective, high-quality
3 early childhood education and child care programs and their impact on
4 children;

5 (h) Whether or not the quality of Nebraska's early
6 childhood education and child care programs is improving;

7 (i) The costs to serve children in high-quality early
8 childhood education and child care programs;

9 (j) The characteristics of Nebraska's early childhood
10 education and child care workforce;

11 (k) Whether or not Nebraska's early childhood education
12 and child care workforce is improving in population and
13 qualifications;

14 (l) The policies to ensure common data definitions and
15 standards and data audits to ensure the validity of the data; and

16 (m) The administrative safeguards necessary to ensure
17 effective and appropriate use of data by multiple agencies in a
18 manner that ensures the privacy of children, families, and programs
19 and professional privacy.

20 Sec. 5. The early childhood unified data system created
21 pursuant to section 4 of this act shall interface with the
22 longitudinal data system of the State Department of Education and
23 shall integrate data from the Department of Health and Human Services
24 relating to services provided to children from birth through eight
25 years of age.

1 Sec. 6. The Early Childhood Data Governing Body shall
2 report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
3 and the Education Committee of the Legislature on its activities on
4 January 1, 2015, and July 1, 2015. The governing body shall complete
5 the plan required by section 4 of this act and provide a written
6 report to the Governor and electronically to the Legislature on or
7 before July 1, 2016.