

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 172

Introduced by Williams, 36; Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study and analyze state and local policy and initiatives to retain and incent health care providers and health-related businesses in the state to remain and expand in Nebraska. This interim study shall further examine the potential advantages of combining employee incentives of existing loan forgiveness programs with federal and state benefits from federally designated Opportunity Zones to stimulate private investment by health-related industries and health professions to address economic development and workforce development in high-need areas across Nebraska.

The interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The creation of Health Enterprise Zones to incent licensed medical clinics and providers to expand or establish a presence in a designated health care service shortage area;

(2) Potentially eligible census tracts across Nebraska with defined health care disparities that have also been designated by the U.S. Department of Treasury as an Opportunity Zone;

(3) The potential economic impact and historic data on health care businesses or entities within a federally designated Opportunity Zone and the potential impact of additional state incentives and regulatory flexibility through a state-established Health Opportunity Zone;

(4) The potential benefits and outcomes of establishing a state and local fund to award matching grants to attract health care practitioners to state-designated health provider shortage areas;

(5) Current state programs that assist health care, biomedical, and

pharmaceutical businesses expand investment and the workforce in Nebraska; and

(6) Opportunities to align or improve systems that support Nebraska's health care workforce in underserved and high-need communities across the state.

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