

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 239

Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Howard, 9, Chairperson; Arch, 14; Cavanaugh, 6; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine non-court involved cases, including voluntary and alternative response cases, in the child welfare system. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) The standards used to determine which cases are handled as non-court involved cases and the process for such determination;

(2) The regulatory or statutory oversight, or lack thereof, for non-court involved cases;

(3) The type of services provided to families in non-court involved cases, including, when possible, specific data on services offered;

(4) The risk assessment level for children placed in non-court involved cases, including specific data on how many families were assessed at each risk level;

(5) The type of placements used in non-court involved cases, including whether any background checks are performed for those placements and whether any changes in voluntary placements are tracked;

(6) The average length of time a non-court involved case remains open;

(7) The number of non-court involved cases that transition to court-involved cases and the number of non-court involved cases that are closed;

(8) The grounds for closing a non-court involved case and the grounds for transferring a non-court involved case to a court-involved case; and

(9) The decrease in initial assessments despite an increase in calls to the child abuse and neglect hotline.

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.