

LEGISLATIVE BILL 511

Approved by the Governor May 2, 1973

Introduced by Public Health and Welfare Committee,
 Kennedy, 21, Chmn.; Goodrich, 20; B. Maresh,
 32; Cavanaugh, 9; F. Lewis, 45; B. Lewis,
 38; Schmit, 23

AN ACT relating to public welfare; to create a Division of Social Services; to provide for administration of public assistance as prescribed; and to declare an emergency.
 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. A Division of Social Services is hereby created within the Department of Public Welfare.

Sec. 2. Social services may be provided on behalf of recipients with payments for such social services made directly to vendors. Social services shall include those mandatory and optional services to former, present, or potential welfare recipients provided for under the federal Social Security Act, as amended, and described by the State of Nebraska in the approved State Plan for Services. Such services may include but shall not be limited to foster care for children, child care, family planning, treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction, treatment for the mentally retarded, health-related services, protective services for children, homemaker services, employment services, foster care for adults, protective services for adults, transportation services, home management and other functional education services, housing improvement services, legal services, day care for adults, home delivered or congregate meals, and educational services.

Sec. 3. Social services shall be provided or purchased for dependent children and families, aged persons, blind individuals, and disabled individuals as defined by state law and to former and potential recipients as defined in federal regulations.

Sec. 4. For the purpose of providing or purchasing social services described in section 2 of this act, the state hereby accepts and assents to all applicable provisions of the federal Social Security Act, as amended. The Director of Public Welfare may promulgate rules and regulations, enter into agreements, and adopt fee schedules with regard to social services described in section 2 of this act.

Sec. 5. The matching funds required to obtain the federal share of the services described in section 2 of this act may come from either state, county, or donated sources in amounts and other provisions to be determined by the Director of Public Welfare.

Sec. 6. Except for payments to vendors, or services provided by state staff, social services shall be administered by county divisions of public welfare subject to supervision by the Department of Public Welfare. The Director of Public Welfare may assign state service workers in addition to county workers to meet appropriate federal requirements if the director determines that by so doing the administration of such services may be more economically and efficiently provided. The Department of Public Welfare may contract with other social agencies for the purchase of social services at rates not to exceed those prevailing in the state or the cost at which the department could provide those services. The statutory maximum payments for the separate program of aid to dependent children shall apply only to public assistance grants and shall not apply to payments for social services.

Sec. 7. The Division of Social Services shall supervise all public child welfare services as described by law.

Sec. 8. Authority to adopt rules and regulations and the right to appeal and hearing shall be the same in the program of social services as in the program of assistance to families and children and the aged, blind, or disabled.

Sec. 9. Information regarding applicants for or recipients of social services shall be safeguarded and shall be used only for purposes connected with the administration of social services.

Sec. 10. Since an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect, from and after its passage and approval, according to law.