

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 148

Introduced by Wightman, 36.

PURPOSE: (1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) Americans spend more on health care than residents of any other country, and the costs of health care and health insurance are rising rapidly, with health care costing \$2.2 trillion in 2007, or \$7,412 per capita;

(b) It is estimated that seventy percent of health care costs are driven by behaviors;

(c) Private employers in the State of Nebraska have adopted wellness programs to help their employees address unhealthy behaviors and reduce their health insurance costs;

(d) The State of Nebraska must contain the costs of its Nebraska State Insurance Program;

(e) The State of Nebraska has started a wellness program for its employees;

(f) Other states have adopted wellness programs for their state employees that have been in operation for multiple years and could provide additional cost-effective options for consideration; and

(g) The Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services has as part of its mission the promotion of the public health and has a health promotion unit that

encourages healthy behaviors.

(2) An interim study should be conducted to:

(a) Evaluate the State of Nebraska's wellness program and provide policy options, if any, for improvement of the program;

(b) Collect information concerning the effectiveness of wellness programs operated by other states and provide policy options for improvement of the State of Nebraska's wellness program, including incentives for participation;

(c) Collect information concerning the effectiveness of wellness programs operated by private employers to provide policy options for the improvement of the State of Nebraska's wellness program; and

(d) Outline the strategies and options that exist for the State of Nebraska to encourage wellness initiatives and activities to improve the public health of all the citizens of the state.

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