

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 535

Introduced by McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the conditions, use, and effectiveness of Nebraska's youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The study will also make policy recommendations to properly ensure high-risk youth have the secure treatment environment necessary for rehabilitation and that the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers are properly positioned in a comprehensive juvenile justice continuum of care. Elements of this interim study may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Information on the decision to place youth at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center, including data on the type of offense committed, use of risk assessments, and other significant factors that lead to their placements, as well as information on how other states make decisions on eligibility for placement at state correctional institutions;

(2) The safety of youth and staff at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, including data on the number of youth assaulted by other youth, the number of youth assaulted by staff, the number of staff assaulted by youth, the youth placed in seclusion and the length of their seclusion, the frequency and type of restraints used, and information about youth who have at least three assaults or attempts to escape, including their age and other significant characteristics;

(3) Information on training and support provided to staff at both youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, especially as it relates to

adolescent development and behavior, providing support and rehabilitation to youth, and resolving conflicts and maintaining safety. Data on the impact of training by the Department of Correctional Services shall also be included;

(4) The treatment model and opportunities for rehabilitation at each of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, as well as information on how they compare to evidence-based practice and successful models in other states and how they take adolescent development into account;

(5) Information on the cost of providing services at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, as well as information on the cost, availability, and effectiveness of community-based alternatives to placement at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers for low-risk and non-violent youth; and

(6) The current availability and effectiveness of services to facilitate reentry into the community and recidivism rates for both juvenile and adult court as compared to practices and models used in other states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Judiciary 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.