

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 221**

Introduced by Fredrickson, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the barriers to access to dental services for Nebraskans. The study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) How to assure all Nebraska residents have affordable access to dental care with a dental home, particularly those that qualify for medicaid;

(2) How to address the lack of dentists and dental hygienists in dental shortage areas;

(3) How to create a dental medicaid program that is sustainable;

(4) How to reduce the number of people seeking relief from dental pain in the emergency room of a hospital;

(5) How to invest in public health dental infrastructure, including, but not limited to, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Office of Oral Health and Dentistry, federally qualified health centers, and local public health departments, to help prevent dental problems and disease; and

(6) How the state might invest in urgent care dental clinics within Nebraska's dental schools to provide acute care and deter people from using emergency rooms for dental issues.

In conducting this interim study, the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature may confer with other standing committees, state agencies, the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry, the Creighton University School of Dentistry, the Nebraska Dental Association, and other appropriate stakeholders, as well as create a work group, conduct meetings, and make site visits.

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

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.