



**Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 264**

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**Hearing Date:** February 2, 2005

**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducer(s):** (Howard, Brown, Kruse, Price, Stuhr)

**Title:** Provide for programs of parenting assistance as prescribed

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

- |   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 6 | Yes                 | Senator Jensen, Byars, Cunningham, Erdman, Johnson and Howard |
|   | No                  |   |
| 1 | Present, not voting | Senator Suthman   |
|   | Absent              |   |
- 

**Proponents:**

Senator Howard  
Kay Lynn Goldner  
Betty Cernech  
Melissa Dodge  
Erin Reichenbach  
Jason Danner

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Foster Care Review Board  
Visiting Nurses Association  
Voices for Children  
Self  
Nebraska Association of Public Employees

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:** LB 264 relates to assistance programs for parents and children. The bill provides legislative findings (sec. 1) and defines terms (sec. 2).

The bill permits the Department of Health and Human Services to provide secondary prevention programs that contain a continuum of services starting before birth and ending in education for parenthood. The types of programs that may be provided by the department include, but are not limited to, (1) prenatal programs, (2) perinatal bonding, (3) interaction with infants, (4) support for parents of infants in need of extra services, (5) home visitor programs, (6)

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mutual aid programs, (7) child screening for early identification and remediation of social and health problems, and (8) education for parenthood (sec. 3).

**Explanation of amendments, if any:** The committee amendment (AM 0481) replaces the bill as introduced and also adds amended provisions from LB 265 and LB 266.

The amendment revises section 68-1202 to add “secondary prevention services, including but not limited to, home visitation, child screening and early intervention, and parenting education programs” to the list of social services that may be provided by the state Department of Health and Human Services (sec.1). The additional services, if provided, are discretionary with the department.

The amendment revises section 68-1207 to require the Director of Health and Human Services, in establishing child protection caseload standards, to “consider workload standards recommended by national child welfare organizations and factors related to the attainment of such standards” (sec. 2). The amended bill does not mandate the attainment of such standards. Similar provisions were included in LB 266 as introduced.

The amendment revises section 68-1207.01 to require the Director of Health and Human Services to provide an annual, instead of a biennial, report of child protective services caseloads, and also requires the following information to be included in the report:

“(2)(a) the number of child welfare services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and child welfare services workers providing services directly to children and families, who are under contract with the State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the State of Nebraska, and (b) statistics on the average length of employment in such positions, statewide and by health and human services area;

(3)(a) The average caseload of child welfare services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and child welfare services workers providing services directly to children and families, under contract with the State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the State of Nebraska, and (b) the outcomes of such cases, including the number of children reunited with their families, children adopted, children in guardianships, placement of children with relatives, and other permanent resolutions established, statewide and by health and human services area; and

(4) the average cost of training child welfare services caseworkers and case managers employed by the State of Nebraska and child welfare services workers providing services directly to children and families, who are under contract with the State of Nebraska or employed by a private entity under contract with the State of Nebraska, statewide and by health and human services area” (sec.3, subsec. (2)- (4)). Similar provisions were included in LB 265 as introduced:

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**Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson**