

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 266

Introduced by Day, 49; Lindstrom, 18.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine Nebraska's processes relating to investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect in licensed child care facilities.

Allegations of child abuse by a staff member and owner of Rosewood Academy in Omaha, Nebraska, occurring in December 2020 and January 2021 were unknown to parents who entrusted Rosewood Academy to care for their children. The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for licensing child care facilities to ensure the safety of children. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services or law enforcement is responsible for investigating reports of child abuse in licensed child care facilities and immediately notifying each person having custody of a child who has allegedly been abused or neglected of the report.

The interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) The current statutory requirements for parental notice of abuse or neglect in licensed child care facilities;

(2) The responsibilities of the Division of Children and Family Services and the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and law enforcement agencies when an allegation of child abuse or neglect involves a licensed child care facility;

(3) How Nebraska's statutes relating to out-of-home child abuse or neglect compare to other states;

(4) The rights of parents whose children are alleged victims of abuse or neglect in licensed child care facilities to receive notice of such allegations;

(5) The remedies available to parents whose children are alleged victims

of abuse or neglect in licensed child care facilities.

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