

E AND R AMENDMENTS TO LB 382

Introduced by Guereca, 7, Chairman Enrollment and Review

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
2 insert the following new sections:

3 **Section 1.** (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
4 establish a Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program
5 for a period of five years in cities of the metropolitan class areas,
6 that shall operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The pilot
7 program shall be developed in partnership with local grassroots
8 organizations, community stakeholders, and advisors representing youth
9 and families impacted by the juvenile justice system.

10 (2) A Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center means a
11 facility designed to provide support, assessment, and intervention
12 services for youth and families involved in, or at risk of, entering the
13 juvenile justice system. The goal of the centers is to offer
14 comprehensive, community-based solutions that address underlying issues
15 contributing to juvenile delinquency, including family dynamics, mental
16 health, substance abuse, and educational challenges.

17 **Sec. 2.** The pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of this
18 act shall:

19 (1) Provide comprehensive support resources to prevent youth from
20 entering or escalating within the juvenile justice system;

21 (2) Minimize individual and community harm by addressing issues
22 before they lead to greater involvement with social services, family
23 services, and adult criminal justice systems; and

24 (3) Foster community trust and engagement by integrating culturally
25 relevant services delivered by, and for, the communities served.

26 **Sec. 3.** (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
27 establish a designation process for family resource and juvenile

1 assessment centers to ensure adherence to high-quality standards in
2 service delivery, staff qualifications, and organizational effectiveness.

3 (2) A center seeking designation shall complete a comprehensive
4 self-assessment based on the national Standards of Quality for Family
5 Strengthening and Support or a similar benchmark framework and shall
6 submit an application and the self-assessment to the department for
7 review.

8 (3) The department shall conduct site visits and staff interviews as
9 part of the review process to verify self-assessment findings and confirm
10 compliance with designation standards.

11 (4) A center that meets the designation criteria will receive
12 official designation. A center that does not meet the designation
13 criteria shall receive feedback and technical assistance so that such
14 center may improve and reapply for designation.

15 (5) Two centers shall be selected for the pilot program established
16 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

17 **Sec. 4.** To receive designation as a family resource and juvenile
18 assessment center under section 3 of this act, an applicant shall meet
19 the following criteria: (1) Offer a range of core services, including
20 parenting support, youth counseling, economic success initiatives, early
21 childhood programs, conflict resolution, mental health services, and
22 substance abuse prevention; (2) employ professionals trained in family
23 support principles, cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and the
24 strengthening families framework; (3) develop partnerships with local
25 grassroots organizations to provide culturally relevant services,
26 outreach, and trust-building within the community; (4) demonstrate a
27 clear, effective organizational framework that supports service delivery,
28 continuous quality improvement, and sustainable operations; and (5)
29 implement data collection processes to assess service impact and outcomes
30 for youth and families, ensuring program adjustments based on feedback.

31 **Sec. 5.** (1) Each family resource and juvenile assessment center

1 shall host multiple community providers, grassroots organizations, and
2 embedded community navigators to assess and serve the immediate and
3 ongoing needs of youth and families.

4 (2) Each center shall provide assessments and services free of
5 charge to families and maintain active membership in the National
6 Assessment Center Association.

7 (3) The purpose of the assessment shall be to (a) enable youth and
8 families to discuss a family's unique dynamic, challenges, and goals in a
9 safe, culturally respectful environment, (b) identify the origin of
10 presenting issues and provide comprehensive service referrals in
11 partnership with local organizations and businesses, and (c) engage youth
12 and families in creating tailored action plans for long-term success.

13 **Sec. 6.** (1) Each family resource and juvenile assessment center
14 shall integrate culturally relevant and trauma-informed services,
15 including (a) tutoring, (b) mentoring from community leaders, including
16 those with lived experience in the justice system, (c) conflict
17 resolution and anger management training, (d) mental health and wellness
18 services provided by culturally sensitive professionals, (e) social
19 skills and job-readiness training, (f) financial literacy programs, (g)
20 youth and family counseling, (h) cognitive behavioral therapy, (i) drug
21 and substance abuse prevention and intervention, and (j) food and
22 clothing assistance and resource navigation.

23 (2) Each center shall establish community partnerships to provide
24 apprenticeships, vocational training, and mentorship opportunities with
25 local businesses, trades, and community organizations.

26 **Sec. 7.** Each family resource and juvenile assessment center shall
27 (1) have a youth advisory council and parent advisory board composed of
28 community members to provide ongoing feedback to ensure services remain
29 relevant, effective, and responsive, (2) host regular outreach events,
30 workshops, and open houses in partnership with schools, faith-based
31 groups, and community organizations, to create a bridge for preventive

1 engagement with at-risk youth and their families, and (3) employ
2 individuals with established community ties and lived experience to guide
3 youth and families through available services, act as mentors, and assist
4 with follow-up to ensure sustained engagement.

5 **Sec. 8.** Each family resource and juvenile assessment center shall
6 implement a data collection system to assess program effectiveness, track
7 youth and family outcomes, and incorporate feedback directly from those
8 served. The data collected shall be used to adjust and refine services,
9 with a focus on measuring progress toward keeping youth out of the
10 juvenile justice system and achieving positive life outcomes.

11 **Sec. 9.** Each family resource and juvenile assessment center shall
12 offer ongoing support to youth after they complete the initial service
13 period. This support may include alumni mentoring programs, periodic
14 check-ins, or additional family resources as youth transition into
15 adulthood or exit from other systems of care.

16 **Sec. 10.** Funding for family resource and juvenile assessment
17 centers shall be allocated to prioritize partnerships with local
18 grassroots organizations and businesses to sustain services and provide
19 direct community investment. Subject to available funds, each designated
20 center shall receive up to five hundred thousand dollars annually from
21 the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund. If such funds are not
22 available from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund, no General
23 Funds may be used. No more than ten percent of funds appropriated for the
24 Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program, up to one
25 hundred thousand dollars per year, shall be used to administer the pilot
26 program.

27 **Sec. 11.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall conduct
28 an annual evaluation of the Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment
29 Center Pilot Program's impact on youth and family well-being, community
30 trust, and reduction in juvenile justice system involvement to inform
31 future program developments under sections 1 to 11 of this act.

1 **Sec. 12.** Section 68-996, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2024, is amended to read:

3 68-996 (1) The Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund is created.
4 The fund shall contain money returned to the State Treasurer pursuant to
5 subdivision (3) of section 68-995.

6 (2) The fund shall first be used to offset any losses under
7 subdivision (2) of section 68-995 and then to provide for (a) services
8 addressing the health needs of adults and children under the Medical
9 Assistance Act, including filling service gaps, (b) providing system
10 improvements, (c) providing evidence-based early intervention home
11 visitation programs, (d) providing medical respite services, (e)
12 translation and interpretation services, (f) providing coverage for
13 continuous glucose monitors as described in section 68-911, (g) providing
14 other services sustaining access to care, (h) services under the Nebraska
15 Prenatal Plus Program, (i) and providing grants pursuant to the
16 Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Grant Program, (j) the Family
17 Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program, and (k) beginning
18 on the operative date of sections 13 and 14 of this act, reimbursement of
19 the actual costs of providing eligible activities and services described
20 in section 81-2222, as determined by the Legislature. The fund shall only
21 be used for the purposes described in this section.

22 (3) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
23 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
24 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Beginning
25 October 1, 2024, any investment earnings from investment of money in the
26 fund shall be credited to the General Fund.

27 **Sec. 13.** It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two
28 million dollars in fiscal year 2025-26 and two million dollars in fiscal
29 year 2026-27 from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund to the
30 area agencies on aging for the purpose of providing additional eligible
31 activities and services as defined in section 81-2222. An equal amount

1 shall be distributed to each of the state's eight area agencies on aging.

2 **Sec. 14.** Section 81-2224, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 81-2224 The department shall reimburse each designated area agency
5 on aging for seventy-five percent of the actual cost of providing
6 eligible activities and services as defined in section 81-2222. Such
7 reimbursement shall be made from (1) state funds appropriated by the
8 Legislature, including, but not limited to, cash fund appropriations as
9 described in section 13 of this act, (2) federal funds allocated to the
10 department, including federal funds allocated under the Older Americans
11 Act, as now or hereafter amended, and (3) other funds as available. The
12 payments shall be made by the department on or before the twentieth day
13 of each month. If state funds appropriated, federal funds allocated, or
14 other funds available are insufficient to finance the department-approved
15 plan and budget for each designated area agency on aging, the
16 reimbursement to each area agency on aging shall be proportionately
17 reduced. If an area agency on aging chooses to exceed the budget approved
18 by the department, costs in excess of the approved budget shall not be
19 reimbursed by the department.

20 **Sec. 15.** Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 16 of
21 this act become operative on September 1, 2025. Sections 13, 14, and 17
22 of this act become operative three calendar months after the adjournment
23 of this legislative session. The other sections of this act become
24 operative on their effective date.

25 **Sec. 16.** Original section 68-996, Revised Statutes Cumulative
26 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.

27 **Sec. 17.** Original section 81-2224, Reissue Revised Statutes of
28 Nebraska, is repealed.

29 **Sec. 18.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
30 passed and approved according to law.

31 2. On page 1, strike beginning with "aging" in line 1 through line 6

1 and insert "government services; to amend section 81-2224, Reissue
2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 68-996, Revised Statutes
3 Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide for establishment of a Family
4 Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program; to provide powers
5 and duties for the Department of Health and Human Services; to authorize
6 use of the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund for the pilot program
7 and for activities and services under the Nebraska Community Aging
8 Services Act; to state intent regarding appropriations, disbursement, and
9 reimbursement; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original
10 sections; and to declare an emergency.".