

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB454**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday February 28, 2025  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Quick  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to regional behavioral health authorities and the Behavioral Health Services Fund and provide for a pilot project

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Hardin, Ballard, Fredrickson, Hansen, Meyer, Quick, Riepe  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Dan Quick  
Dr. Thomas Janousek  
Tiffany Gressley  
Chase Franci  
Patrick Kriefels  
Annette Dubas

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
NE Department of Health and Human Services  
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services  
Mid Plains Center for Behavioral Health Services  
Region 5 Systems  
NE Association of Behavioral Health Organizations  
NABHO

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 454 changes the restrictions to the currently required competitive bidding process used for behavioral health services. A pilot project may be conducted. Also, the Behavioral Health Services Fund is expanded to housing assistance for low-income individuals with substance abuse disorder.

Sec. 1: A provider may provide an existing service approved by DHHS and may contract with regional behavioral health authority if the currently enrolled provider meets the required standards, as such standards existed on January 1, 2025. The consideration shall be made on a per-service basis.

A pilot project may be conducted for a period of no more than one year with DHHS approval. A pilot project shall not



be used for existing services approved by DHHS. A pilot project shall have outcomes approved by the regional behavioral health authority. A successful pilot project may become a full service.

Allows the providing of behavioral health services with no competitive bidding if authorized by the new subsections (pilot program, meets required standards).

Each regional behavioral health authority is now required to comply with all rules and regulations that establish uniform and equitable procedures instead of equitable “public bidding” procedures (public bidding is stricken).

Sec. 2: Allows money transferred to the Behavioral Health Services Fund to be used for housing for low-income adults with substance abuse disorder as well as serious mental illness.

Sec. 3: Repealer

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 547 replaces Subsection 5 of Section 1 of the original bill with new language. The new language allows a provider engaged in providing services to provide new as well as existing services approved by DHHS and allows them to contract with a regional behavioral health authority if the enrolled provider meets the required standards. This consideration shall be made on a per-service basis.

AM 547 removes Subsection 6 of Section 1 which allowed the pilot project to be conducted one year with DHHS approval, prohibited the pilot project from being used for existing services, required outcomes approved by the regional behavioral health authority and allowed a successful pilot project to become a full service.

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Brian Hardin, Chairperson

