 Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

Read first time January 12, 2022

Committee: Health and Human Services

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Developmental Disabilities Services Act; to amend section 83-1201, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to require the Department of Health and Human Services to engage a consultant; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Section 83-1201, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

83-1201 Sections 83-1201 to 83-1227 and section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

Sec. 2. (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall engage a nationally recognized consultant to provide an evaluation of the state's developmental disabilities system in order to examine how the State of Nebraska can better serve all Nebraskans with a variety of developmental disabilities.

(2) The consultant shall be independent of the Department of Health and Human Services and be a national entity that can demonstrate:

(a) Direct involvement with public and tribal developmental disabilities agencies;

(b) Partnerships with national advocacy organizations, think tanks, or technical assistance providers for persons with developmental disabilities;

(c) Collaboration with community agencies for persons with developmental disabilities; and

(d) Independent research regarding developmental disabilities.

(3) The evaluation shall analyze the array of services and programs existing in Nebraska for persons with developmental disabilities and address potential areas for improvement with an emphasis on maximizing impact, effectiveness, and cost-efficiencies. The evaluation shall consider: (a) Services offered and provided by the state through the medicaid state plan or by current medicaid waivers; (b) services offered by other states through medicaid state plans, medicaid waivers, or other mechanisms; and (c) any other areas which may be beneficial to the state in the assessment of its developmental disabilities services.

(4) The Department of Health and Human Services shall electronically deliver a report detailing the findings and recommendations of the consultant to the Governor, chairperson of the Health and Human Services
Committee of the Legislature, and the Clerk of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2022.

(5) Engagement of the consultant described in this section shall not be subject to competitive bidding requirements under sections 73-501 to 73-510.

Sec. 3. Original section 83-1201, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.