

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 574

Introduced by McCollister, 20; Crawford, 45; Hansen, 26; Howard, 9; Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study aspects of Nebraska's medicaid program that include share of cost or resource spend down components in order to evaluate such components' effectiveness and explore ways in which they can be improved for the Nebraskans served by Nebraska's medicaid program. Because medicaid is a joint federal and state program, each state can set different coverage requirements, subject to federal minimum standards. Nebraska's eligibility requirements and benefits have remained at the minimums required by the federal government for an extended period of time. Thus, the share of cost obligations in Nebraska are much more severe than those of other states.

This study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) A review of the current benefits and eligibility requirements of those aspects of Nebraska's medicaid program that include a share of cost or resource spend down component;

(2) A determination of the number of individuals currently served by these programs, the number who spend down because they choose to work, the number who meet the share of cost requirement, how monthly eligibility is verified, the amounts of spend down costs and share of cost obligations and the ranges, medians, and averages of such amounts, how many other policies are purchased so individuals can spend down, and how many claims are filed with these other policies so Nebraska medicaid does not have to cover any costs;

(3) An examination of the application process for Nebraska's medicaid share of cost and resource spend down components, and the ways in which clients are informed about why they are subject to such requirements, how the requirements work, and what participants subject to such requirements are

expected to do each month to receive their benefits, from the initial point of intake through their ongoing use of medicaid; and

(4) A comparison of similar programs in other states to determine what flexibility is allowed by the federal government and what changes need to be made to Nebraska medicaid to bring it more in line with current cost-of-living factors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services 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.