

2012 Legislative Session

(please note that this is the work of the NASW-NE Advocacy Committee's summary as best they understand the bills)

Legislative Bill Summaries:

Bill Number:	LB 737
Introducer:	Gloor
One Liner:	Provide procedures for submitting national criminal history record information checks with respect to home studies for adoptions
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Adds the requirement of national criminal history checks for step-parents petitioning to adopt their step-child. Home studies are not done with step-parents unless ordered by the court.

Bill Number:	LB 753
Introducer:	Avery
One Liner:	Fund childhood obesity programs through sales tax on soft drinks.
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description

As stated use such new funds to support childhood obesity. Program to be administered by the schools, funding in DHHS.

Bill Number:	LB 765
Introducer:	Krist
One Liner:	Change bidding requirements relating to contracts with providers of certain health and social services as prescribed
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description: Bill would require the director of HHS to conduct a cost benefit analysis for contracts with direct providers of medical, behavioral or developmental health services, child welfare services, or child care if the contract is for more than 25 million. Most members of the HHS committee have signed onto the bill. No doubt this is the result of committee's LR 37 report. To be heard by the Gov, Military, and Veterans Committee

Bill Number:	768
Introducer:	Howard
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to access to adoption case files
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Takes out "shall only apply when the petition for adoption is filed on or after August 27, 2011" which allows any adoptive parents to read their child's case file.

Bill Number:	LB774
Introducer:	Howard, 9; Bloomfield, 17; Campbell, 25; Cook, 13; Dubas, 34; Gloor, 35; Haar, 21; Harr, 8; Krist, 10; McGill, 26; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Sullivan, 41.
One Liner:	Change and add reporting requirements relating to child welfare
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Curtis Bryant

Action:	Letter of Support
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Brief Description:

Requires the Health and Human Services Committee to report to the Legislature, Governor, and Chief Justice about the progress of HHS in implementing the changes recommended in the foster care report from last year's LR37. The committee's report is due December 15, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The report of HHS to the committee would be due September 15 of each year.

Bill Number:	799
Introducer:	Cornett, 45; Fulton, 29; Howard, 9; Lautenbaugh, 18; Pahls, 31.
One Liner:	Change penalties for child abuse
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

All child abuse was a Class II felony. Moves child abuse (injury) by negligence from a Class II felony to a Class III (maximum penalty from 50 years to 20 years) and child abuse (death) by negligence remains a Class II felony.

Bill Number:	LB 820
Introducer:	Health and Human Services Committee: Campbell, 25, Chairperson; Bloomfield, 17; Cook, 13; Gloor, 35; Howard, 9; Krist, 10; Lambert, 2; McGill, 26; Nordquist, 7.
One Liner:	Provide for a foster care demonstration project
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Curtis Bryant

Brief Description:

Would require HHS to apply to Federal HHS for approval of a foster care demonstration project aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and improve care and outcomes for youth in foster care. The project application must list at least two "child welfare program improvement policies described in" Federal law. It also must name an improvement policy that the State has not implemented before.

Bill Number:	LB821
Introducer:	Health and Human Services Committee: Campbell, 25, Chairperson; Bloomfield, 17; Cook, 13; Gloor, 35; Howard, 9; Krist, 10; Lambert, 2; McGill, 26; Nordquist, 7
One Liner:	Create the Nebraska Children's Commission and require legislation to create the Department of Children's Services
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Curtis Bryant
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description:

Would require the Legislature to create the Department of Children's Services (DCS) within HHS during the 2013 session. Its CEO must be appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature. DCS would be responsible for all child welfare services, including behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and children's public health and Medicaid and would .

Would create the Nebraska Children's Commission now to recommend how to develop and implement DCS and specifies the number and kinds of people to serve on this commission.

Bill Number:	LB 825
Introducer:	Dubas
One Liner:	Establish local offices for access to public benefit programs
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description:

- *'The department shall establish or reestablish twenty-five local offices throughout the state to provide in-person services to department clients. To the extent possible, such local offices shall be established or reestablished by October 1, 2012'*
- *'The local offices shall be open a minimum of forty hours per week'*
- *'The local offices shall, to the greatest extent possible, complete the application process described in subsection (3) of this section within twenty-four hours'*
- The bill goes on to say that the offices must be equipped properly; provide high quality service; provide for people with disabilities etc.

Bill Number:	LB 826
Introducer:	Dubas
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to legislative consideration of proposed rules and regulations under the Medical Assistance Act
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description:

In establishing copayments in Medicaid the Department cannot implement such changes shall *'not become effective until the conclusion of the earliest regular session of the Legislature in which there has been a reasonable opportunity for legislative consideration of such rules and regulations'*.

Bill Number:	LB 829
Introducer:	Louden, Cook, Council, Harmes, Krist, Wallman
One Liner:	Create alcohol impact zones
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description:

A city, county, etc. can request of the Liquor Control Board that a specific area can be more tightly controlled re: the type, manner and hours of alcohol sales. According to Loudens's office the LCB is working with the legislature on this bill--a first.

Bill Number:	LB 832
Introducer:	Howard
One Liner:	Require a report on qualifications by proposed appointee as chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	

Brief Description:

Seeks to add a qualification for becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services to include work within the not for profit sector in an administrative capacity. Also would allow the qualifications of an appointee to be debated by the legislature.

Bill Number:	LB834
Introducer:	Gloor, Campbell, Cook Howard, Krist, Lambert
One Liner:	Change NE Regulation and Health Provisions Act
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description:

Makes changes to the "407 Review Process".

Bill Number:	LB 835
Introducer:	Nordquist
One Liner:	Adopt the Nebraska Health Benefit Exchange Act
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description:

Establishes a Healthcare Exchange in Nebraska and sets out the provisions of its composition

Bill Number:	LB837
Introducer:	Howard, Cambell, Dubas, Gloor, Haar, Krist, Mello, Nordquist, Pirasch, Sullivan, Wallman
One Liner:	Create a task force to review use of certain drugs by wards of the state
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Ruth Few

Brief Description:

Directs HHS committee of the legislature to create a task force to examine state policy regarding prescription psychotropic drugs for children who are state wards, and administration of those drugs, to make recommendfations for changes in policies and procedures. Committee of 12 to include lay, professional, organizational and governmental representatives. No reference to cost containment – appears to address appropriateness of pschotropic drug administration to state wards.

Task force is to present a report annually to the legislature.

Hearing scheduled for January 20th.

Bill Number:	LB 838
Introducer:	Pahls
One Liner:	Adopt the Nebraska Health Benefit Exchange Act
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:

Also establishes a Healthcare Exchange - it appears to me that this is more of a generic bill to set up the framework for and exchange. LB 835 is more specific in how the exchange in Nebraska should be set up and administered.

Bill Number:	LB 839
Introducer:	Council
One Liner:	Require reporting of sexual misconduct by a school employee
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description: Bill would require that school districts report to the hotline or law enforcement allegations of child abuse made by students against a school employee within 24 hours of the allegation being made. The bill states that the school district can investigate the situation to determine the employment status of the district employee, but not to determine the validity of the report by the child. That would be done by persons in law enforcement or child protection whose job it is to investigate such allegations.

No doubt this bill came from a situation in OPS in which the school district was told of the inappropriate behavior of a teacher – some even in the classroom – and did not report the situation as is required by law, but decided to do an internal investigation. The teacher has been charged with several allegations of child abuse once the CPS/law enforcement became aware of the situation.

Bill Number:	LB 842
Introducer:	Harms
One Liner:	Change the termination date relating to self-sufficiency activities under the Welfare Reform Act
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Under the Welfare Reform Act, it extends a subsection from 2012 to 2016. The subsection is about participating in vocational training for a minimum of 20 hours a week for up to three years.

Bill Number:	LB 844
Introducer:	Hadley
One Liner:	Change child support, medical support, and parenting time provisions
Recommendation:	Oppose
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	Letter of Opposition

Brief Description: This bill would allow a parent who is paying child to request and receive from the parent who receives the child support an “annual verified report” on what the child support has been spent. Repeated misuse of child support funds “establishes a rebuttable presumption of material circumstances”. Requires that in a parenting plan it be stated that child support be used for the care of the child. Requires that by Jan 2013 the Supreme Court establish guidelines for parenting time in the case of court created parenting plans. The parenting time in these parenting plans will be divided equally unless one of the parents can show why this is not a good thing to do.

Bill Number:	LB 858
Introducer:	Avery
One Liner:	Change requirements and exceptions for certain state contracts for services
Recommendation:	Support with letter
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:

This bill appears to require the State to provide a 'proof of need' when entering to a contract exceeding twenty-five million dollars. It has a comprehensive list of what needs to be shown such as cost savings and the interests of Nebraskans. I don't know if this bill came about because of privatization or not, but it certainly would have impacted the letting of those contracts until more analysis was done.

Bill Number:	LB 866
Introducer:	Haar, Avery, Cook Council, Dubas, Harr, Howard, Krist, McGill, Mello, Nordquest
One Liner:	Adopt the Nebraska Fair Employment Opportunity Act.
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert
Action:	Letter of Support

Brief Description:

No employer, public or private, may discriminate against persons who are unemployed in their hiring practices. I spoke with Trevor in Mellos's office and this is preventive for Nebraska.

Bill Number:	871
Introducer:	Gloor
One Liner:	Provide for policies relating to fees and copays relating to the Behavioral Health Services Act
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Each regional behavioral health authority shall adopt a policy for use in determining the financial eligibility of all consumers and shall adopt a uniform schedule of fees and copays, based on the policy and schedule developed by the division.

Bill Number:	LB 874
Introducer:	Howard
One Liner:	Change foster care licensure provisions
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: Requires a foster care license in full force if a person/family is going to be a foster parent for any number of children not related to them in any way.

Bill Number:	LB 891
Introducer:	Norquist
One Liner:	Provide for a Medicaid waiver to provide coverage for certain low-income HIV-infected individuals
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	

Brief Description: Bill requires by July 2012 NE HHS shall apply for a waiver to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide services to person with HIV who do not otherwise qualify for this assistance if the person's income is 100% of poverty or less. This coverage won't be provided unless such a waiver is approved.

Bill Number:	LB 892
Introducer:	McGill, Dubas
One Liner:	Provide for credentialing military applicants and spouses under the Uniform Credentialing Act
Recommendation:	Monitor,/Oppose
Committee Member	Ruth Few

Brief Description:

Clearly includes mental health practitioners. This would direct practice boards to issue a license or certification to a military trained applicant who has completed a military training program, been awarded a military occupational specialty and performed that specialty at a level substantially equivalent to or exceeding the requirements for licensure or certification in NE, and has practiced it for 2 of the past 5 years. Would likewise license a military spouse holds a current license or certification in another jurisdiction and the requirements are substantially equivalent to NE's, and can demonstrate competency as determined by the mental health board (i.e. continuing education or experience for 2 of past 5 years, and is in good standing where they've been licensed. All relevant experience of military person or spouse, paid or unpaid, will be credited in calculating experience. Provides for temporary practice permit while satisfying NE requirements for licensure. This bill does not apply to licensure as a physician or surgeon.

Note: Guess we need to know more about the occupational specialty standards for mental health practice folks in the military.

On LB 892, I have trouble supporting this if it doesn't also include physicians! Our training is complicated and unique and special too.

Bill Number:	LB 900
Introducer:	Lathrop
One Liner:	Require a report concerning individuals in need of multiple division services from the Department of Health and Human Services
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: Bill requires that by 12-1-12 NE Division of Dev. Disabilities, Division of Behavioral Health, and Director of Medicaid shall provide a report to the HHS Committee of the Legislature and the Dev. Disabilities Committee of the Legislature about the access to services of persons with a dev. disability and mental illness. What is to be included in the report is outlined in the bill.

Bill Number:	LB 901
Introducer:	Lathrop
One Liner:	Designate funds to be used for services for persons with developmental disabilities
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: Bill provides that undesignated, at this point, in time amounts of funding be appropriated for 2012-13 and 2013-14. These funds are to be used for persons with developmental disabilities who are on the waiting list for funds and those who have not received funds since 11-14-11.

Bill Number:	LB 912
Introducer:	McCoy
One Liner:	Provide requirements for local laws regulating discrimination
Recommendation:	Oppose
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	Letter of Opposition

Brief Description: This bill would not allow any city or other governmental entity to add any protected classification to its anti discrimination laws unless that group has been made part of state law. The bill says that this is to make it easier for business and commerce across the state rather than have different ordinances and laws in different parts of the state. Last year the Omaha City Council defeated by 1 vote an ordinance that would have added sexual orientation to the list of protected groups in Omaha. This was going to come up again soon before the Omaha City Council, but now that has been put on hold until this bill is dealt with in the legislature. This bill would also negate such a vote to add a protected group even if the vote took place before this law goes into effect.

Bill Number:	LB 917
Introducer:	Cornett
One Liner:	Change truancy provisions for absences relating to military employment activities
Recommendation:	Monitor along with LB 933
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: This bill, as does LB 933, modifies the recently toughened school absence/truancy laws. This bill allows for students to be excused from school for military deployment related absences as well as for documented illness related absences.

Bill Number:	LB 920
Introducer:	McGill
One Liner:	Change harassment protection order and domestic abuse protection order provisions
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description:

Most significant change would prohibit respondent to "protection order" from possessing or purchasing a firearm.

Bill Number:	LB 925
Introducer:	Fischer
One Liner:	Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to contracts with providers under Budget Program No. 514, Health Aid
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:

I don't know what this bill is saying. It appears that it requires DHHS to contract with local health care facilities to ensure statewide coverage.

Bill Number:	LB 926
Introducer:	Dubas
One Liner:	Provide for a minimum base rate for foster care compensation
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter

Brief Description:

- States legislative findings about foster parent importance; challenges faced in serving as a foster parent; analysis of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal incidentals, insurance, and travel costs; and the results of the 2007 Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates for Children ("Foster Care MARC").
- Provides that on July 1, 2012, Nebraska's standard minimum base rate for foster care payments shall be the state's rate calculated in the Foster Care MARC, adjusted for inflation and the foster family's location within the state, with additional compensation for children with special needs or special circumstances, for travel expenses, and for age-appropriate clothing. Carries the emergency clause.

Bill Number:	929
Introducer:	McGill
One Liner:	Provide a membership requirement for State Foster Care Review Board members
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

In relation to new board members being appointed it adds "after appointment no member or his or her employer shall receive any funds from such department."

Bill Number:	LB 933
Introducer:	Ashford
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to truancy
Recommendation:	Monitor along with LB 917
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: This is Brad Ashford's bill that addresses some of the concerns that came about following changes in the state's truancy/excessive absenteeism law that were made 2 years ago. This bill allows for more discretion by the school district and county attorney to determine which cases should be referred to Juvenile Court. This bill provides for meetings with parents, school personnel, and county attorney's office to determine if there is a need for further action in court. OWH article about 917 and 933. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120111/NEWS01/701119876>

Bill Number:	LB 935
Introducer:	Smith
One Liner:	Change grandparent child visitation provisions to person with a legitimate interest
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:
Changes language from "grandparent" to "person with a legitimate interest." Person with a legitimate interest includes, but is not limited to, a grandparent, great-grandparent, stepparent, former stepparent, family member, and legal guardian.

My only question is how will the safety of this individual be determined?

Bill Number:	LB 938
Introducer:	Nelson
One Liner:	Require a uniform reimbursement rate for adult day services
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: This bill would require the establishment of a uniform day rate for adult services under Medicaid.

Bill Number:	LB 940
Introducer:	Harr
One Liner:	Change provisions regarding guardians ad litem in adoption hearings
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Christie Abdul
Action	
Hearing Date:	Not set

Brief Description: this bill is regarding compensation for guardian ad litem, and is a change in the legislation noting that if the responsible party does not pay the court my order the county to reimburse the guardian ad litem.

Bill Number:	LB 949
Introducer:	Legislative Audit Committee
One Liner:	Require reports and a strategic plan by the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services
Recommendation:	Support with letter
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:

- on a quarterly basis the Division of Children and Family services shall report in writing any transfer of funds exceeding \$250,000
- For FY2013-14 and FY2014-15, they shall submit a strategic plan to Appropriations outlining goals and benchmarks
- September 2013 and 2015 a report shall be submitted reporting on the progress of such goals
- *'It is the intent of the Legislature that appropriations of funds for child welfare aid be designated as a separate budget program beginning with the FY2013-14 biennial budget.'*

Bill Number:	LB 952
Introducer:	Nordquist
One Liner:	Change appropriation provisions relating to the medical assistance program
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:

This bill directs Medicaid to not implement its proposed cuts to services as outlined in Director Chaumonte's letter to the legislature in December.

Bill Number:	LB 957
Introducer:	HHS Committee
One Liner:	Adopt the Office of Inspector General for Nebraska Child Welfare Act
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:

- Establishes the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act as recommended in the LR 37 report.
- *'The office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare is created within the office of Public Counsel for the purpose of conducting investigations, audits, inspections, and other reviews of the Nebraska child welfare system.'*
- The Inspector General shall have a term of 5 years
- The bill gives broad powers to the IG

Bill Number:	LB 961
Introducer:	HHS Committee
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to case management of child welfare services
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner

Brief Description:**Maintaining**

- *'quality, well-trained, and experienced case managers is essential and will be a core component in child welfare reform strategic planning and implementation'*
- *'By September 1, 2012, for all cases in which a court has awarded a juvenile to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services according to subsection (1) of section 43-285 and for any noncourt and voluntary cases, the case manager shall be an employee of the department'*
- *'The average caseload of each case manager providing child welfare services shall be reduced by ten percent each year until each case manager's and each caseworker's caseload is within the standards established by the Child Welfare League of America or its successor'*
- *'On and after the effective date of this act, the Department of Health and Human Services shall not reinstate a lead agency in the central, western, or northern service areas'*
- *The department shall not extend past July 1, 2013, the contracts with lead agencies in existence on the effective date of this act in the eastern or southeastern service areas'*

Bill Number:	LB 968
Introducer:	Flood
One Liner:	Provide for deficit appropriations
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	

Brief Description:

Budget bill

Bill Number:	LB 969
Introducer:	Flood
One Liner:	Provide for fund transfers
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	

Brief Description:

Budget bill

Bill Number:	LB970
Introducer:	Cornett at the request of the governor
One Liner:	Terminate the inheritance tax and change income tax rates and calculation
Recommendation:	Oppose
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	Letter
Hearing Date:	Thursday, 1/26 1:30 p.m. Rm 1524

Brief Description:

Would reduce individual income tax rates to 2.42%, 3.40%, 4.90%, and 6.70%. This is about 0.12 percentage points lower than the [2010 income tax rates](#). Would reduce the corporate income tax rate on income above \$100,000 from 7.81% to 6.70% starting in 2013. The income tax-rate cuts would reduce revenue to the State by \$326.6 million over three years according to [this World-Herald article](#). The bill's abolition of the inheritance tax would cost Nebraska counties about \$42 million each year.

Bill Number:	LB 972
Introducer:	Ashford
One Liner:	Transfer the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers from the Office of Juvenile Services to the Department of Correctional Services
Recommendation:	Oppose
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips
Action:	John Krejci to testimony
Hearing Date:	1/26/12

Brief Description:

To transfer the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers to the Department of Correctional Services; to create the Division of Juvenile Rehabilitation and Treatment within the department. It sounds like this is in response to some violent youth who have been assaulting others at the YRTC in Kearney. I don't believe switching administration and potentially shifting the focus away from treatment will impact the problem.

Bill Number:	LB 974
Introducer:	Pirsch
One Liner:	Change the income tax rate
Recommendation:	????
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description: Effective January 1, 21012, change the income tax rate from 3.70 % to 3.66%

Bill Number:	LB 976
Introducer:	Nordquist, Dubas, Harr, Howard, Karpisek, McGill, Mello
One Liner:	Exempt social security from state income taxation
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description: Beginning January 1, 2012, in computing Nebraska State income tax, federal gross income shall be reduced by the amount received as benefits from the federal Social Security Act which was included in the federal adjusted gross income.

Bill Number:	LB 978
Introducer:	Karpisek
One Liner:	Prohibit sales of alcohol or beer for consumption off the premises at less than cost
Recommendation:	No action
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	
Hearing Date:	

Brief Description: Prohibit alcohol or beer sales in the original package for consumption off premises at a price less than the cost to the person to purchase the alcohol or beer. Sen Karpisek had a similar bill (LB 776) that he withdrew because it was too broad. He said that he was trying to prevent alcohol from being a loss leader in stores. Looks like this is the bill he introduced to replace it. When I saw the bill on the list I thought maybe it was related to White Clay, but I don't think so after that little bit of research I did. Probably not of interest to us, at least as a group.

Bill Number:	LB 988
Introducer:	Gwen Howard
One Liner:	Provide a rate of payment for certain medical services in emergency protective custody situations
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Christie Abdul
Action	No Action
Hearing Date:	January 27, 2012

Brief Description: reimburse for medical costs at the same rate paid for such services medical assistance program established under sections 68-903 to 68-912.

Bill Number:	LB 989
Introducer:	Haar
One Liner:	Allow exceptions to property tax levy limitations and school district budget authority for 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	Letter
Hearing Date:	None

Brief Description:

The bill allows school districts to exceed budget limits if necessary to improve service coordination. The bill defines a 21st Century Community Learning Center as “a public elementary or secondary school that participates in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate educational, developmental, family, health, and other comprehensive services through community-based organizations and public and private partnerships and provides access to such services to students, families, and the community, such as access during the school year, including before-school and after school hours, and during the summer.”

Bill Number:	LB 991
Introducer:	Krist
One Liner:	Provide for a study relating to countywide school districts
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	
Hearing Date:	Feb 7 Education Committee

Brief Description: Bill Calls for study to determine the costs and effects of county wide district in each of NE’s counties. Prescribes who will serve on the study committee. Probably not our issue. Recalls the dispute from several years ago when there was a movement to make Douglas County one school district. The Learning Community came out of that effort.

Bill Number:	LB 993
Introducer:	Ashford
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to child abuse and neglect teams and child advocacy centers.
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Mary Bahney

Brief Description: This bill outlines specifics related to child advocacy centers and the child abuse and neglect team investigative and treatment teams. Outlines protocols each team must have and follow. This section does not cover the reporting of child maltreatment.

Bill Number:	LB 996
Introducer:	Wrightman
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to compulsory attendance
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	letter
Hearing Date:	Jan 30 Education

Brief Description: This Bill removes the section that states that a student can drop out of school at age 16 if a parent provides a notarized statement authorizing that the child has the parent’s permission to drop out. This provision was added a few years ago. This bill would return the law to what it was and a student could not drop out until age 18.

Bill Number:	LB 998
Introducer:	Krist
One Liner:	Create the Foster Care Review Office and eliminate the Foster Care Review Board
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	
Hearing Date:	None

Brief Description:

The Foster Care Review Board, an independent state agency since the 1980s, would be replaced by the Foster Care Review Office. As an office of the Legislature, the Legislature would appoint the office's executive director, who would report to the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. The governor would appoint one member of each local foster care review board.

Bill Number:	LB 1010
Introducer:	Nordquist
One Liner:	Change eligibility provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips
Action:	Letter
Hearing Date:	

Brief Description:

1. Moves the date to establish a TANF program or policy that is in compliance with Federal law from 10/11 to 10/12
2. Increase the gross income eligibility limit to 185% of the federal poverty guideline, net income eligibility does not change.

Bill Number:	LB 1013
Introducer:	Mello
One Liner:	Change the Administrative Procedure Act and provide for attorney's fees and costs as prescribed
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	None

Brief Description:

Rules & Regulation Reform Legislation; strengthens standards defining types of communications made by state agencies that must follow R&R process as defined in the Adm. Procedures Act. If process is not followed, court can award attorney fees and court costs.

Bill Number:	LB 1016
Introducer:	Conrad
One Liner:	Require NDHHS to contract with certain community based organizations as prescribed
Recommendation:	support
Committee Member	Christie Abdul
Action	letter
Hearing Date:	unknown

Brief Description: This bill looks like it is requiring the department establish itself in community based agencies (30) to help individuals apply for government benefits.

Bill Number:	LB 1020
Introducer:	Nordquist, 7; Ashford, 20; Campbell, 25; Council, 11; Howard, 9; Mello, 5.
One Liner:	Adopt the Nebraska Coordinated School Health Act
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	
Hearing Date:	None

Brief Description:

Would create the Nebraska Coordinated School Health Fund within the Dept. of Education to help school districts—especially in high-poverty areas—set up health centers.

Bill Number:	LB 1023
Introducer:	Avery
One Liner:	Provide a waiver of education-related fees for dependents of veterans.
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert

Brief Description: Previously, tuition was waived at state universities, colleges and community colleges for dependents of veterans after subtracting federal financial aid, grants, state scholarships and grants. This bill includes fees in the waiver.

Bill Number:	LB 1032
Introducer:	Wightman
One Liner:	Change advertisement and display of credential provisions under the Uniform Credentialing Act
Recommendation:	Oppose with letter or testifying
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter - meeting with Senator Wightman along w/NPA representative

Brief Description:

States requirements for the display of health care professionals credentials, includes licensed mental health professionals. Includes any direct communication to the public inc. name tags, business cards, stationary, email, internet, audio visual, etc.

Bill Number:	LB 1038
Introducer:	Council
One Liner:	Require blood-lead testing prior to school enrollment
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	letter
Hearing Date:	Jan 31 Education Committee

Brief Description: Senator Council had a similar/same bill last year that was vetoed by the gov. This bill requires that children get a blood test to determine the amount of lead in their system prior to starting school. There are provisions that would allow for a medical professional to sign off that the child is in a low-risk category for having an elevated level of lead in the blood. An elevated level of blood can seriously impact a child's cognitive abilities. Often children are exposed to lead in an older home that where there is still evidence of lead paint that children may ingest.

Bill Number:	LB 1041
Introducer:	Cook
One Liner:	Adopt the Department of Health and Human Services Delivery Improvement and Efficiency Act
Recommendation:	Support with letter
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	letter

Brief Description:

Simplifies the management and delivery of public benefits in the department; Collect and analyze data to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery system; The department shall simplify documentation requirements for public benefit programs; The department shall provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than December 1 each year regarding the data collected.

Bill Number:	LB 1048
Introducer:	Howard
One Liner:	Increase an appropriation for nurse visitation services as prescribed
Recommendation:	No action
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	
Hearing Date:	Feb 7

Brief Description: This bill increases the appropriation for the pilot home visitation program that was begun a couple of years ago. While this program supports nurses in doing this home visitation, the concept is great as it provides support to the families of new born.

Bill Number:	LB 1051
Introducer:	Coash
One Liner:	Change registry provisions regarding adult protective services and child protection cases
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Updates definitions, changes language and adds the requirement that the Department provides written notification to the person being accused of abuse.

Bill Number:	LB 1056
Introducer:	Pirsch
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to harassment and domestic abuse protection orders
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	
Hearing Date:	

Brief Description: What this bill is saying that if the respondent to a harassment protection order is in court he/she is considered to have been notified that the order has been granted and gone into effect if the court so orders. If the respondent has been properly served regarding the harassment protection order and does not appear in court, the temporary order shall be deemed to be granted

and remain in effect. Being served notice of the hearing even if the respondent does not appear in court will serve as notice if a final order is put into place.

Bill Number:	LB 1062
Introducer:	Senator Nordquist
One Liner:	Provision to change provisions in the death of an adoptive parent for a former state ward.
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Christie Abdul
Action:	Letter Submitted for committee on 2/2/2012

Brief Description: continue to provide a child who had been a former state ward with their adoption subsidy to include Medicaid in the death of their adoptive parent if the child is placed with a family member or a known person to the child. Currently the child would need to be made a state ward again and possibly placed back in care to maintain their subsidy.

Bill Number:	LB 1063
Introducer:	Cook
One Liner:	Adopt the Children's Health and Treatment Act
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter of testimony

Brief Description:

Clarifies the meaning of the term medically necessary for purposes of the medical assistance program for children under twenty-one years of age, to ensure children obtain needed services; Prohibits certain diagnosis-based exclusions; Medically necessary means necessary to correct or ameliorate defects or physical or mental illnesses or conditions; Medical necessity shall be determined on an individualized, case-by-case basis for each child.

Bill Number:	LB 1068
Introducer:	Adams
One Liner:	LB1068 - Create and provide duties for the Medicaid in the Public Schools Task Force
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	
Hearing Date:	Feb 21

Brief Description: Establishes a task force to look at how Medicaid funds can be used in the schools. Social work is not listed in this bill, but social work services is listed in the federal law that has not been used in NE (that I know of).

Bill Number:	LB 1072
Introducer:	Nordquist
One Liner:	Provide for payment of claims against the state
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	

Brief Description:

This is the bill that requires the State to pay those who provided services to the lead contractor, which subsequently dropped the State contract, and did get paid.

Bill Number:	LB 1073
Introducer:	Nordquist
One Liner:	Deny payment of certain claims against the state
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	

Brief Description:

Opposite of LB 1072.

Bill Number:	LB 1098
Introducer:	Council
One Liner:	Repeal the Build Nebraska Act and change distribution of sales and use tax revenue
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	Letter

Brief Description:

To repeal the Build Nebraska Act and eliminate the provision for the distribution of sales and use tax revenue for road construction.

Bill Number:	LB 1100
Introducer:	Wightman
One Liner:	Create a legislative advisory committee to study and report regarding health care services and health care insurance
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Terry Werner
Action:	none

Brief Description:

"The Legislature finds that it is necessary to determine how best to accomplish improvements in providing health care services and manage the cost of providing health care services through health insurance and to encourage the growth of patient centered medical homes through the health insurance industry, the medical community, and the business community in Nebraska."

- Encourage the growth of medical homes
- Creates an advisory committee
- report to the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee by November 30, 2012.

Bill Number:	LB 1102
Introducer:	Wightman
One Liner:	Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts
Recommendation:	Oppose-letter
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Increases inheritance tax exemptions and lowers rates over time. Inheritance revenue would decrease meaning cuts to county funded services.

Bill Number:	LB 1129
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Introducer:	Coash
One Liner:	Provide requirements for insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders
Recommendation:	Support w/amendment
Committee Member	Christie Abdul
Action:	Letter

Brief Description:

- Requires insurance coverage for an autism spectrum disorder
- Does not include LIMHP or LMHP

Bill Number:	LB1142
Introducer:	Nordquist
One Liner:	Adopt the Health Care Transparency Act
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	No Action
Hearing Date:	2/16 1:30, Room 1510

Brief Description:

Would create the Health Care Data Base Advisory Committee, which would make recommendations about creating a database that would help implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care **Act**.

Bill Number:	LB 1148
Introducer:	Gloor
One Liner:	Change certification provisions for marriage and family therapists
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Changes supervision requirements for marriage and family therapists. Not our issue.

Bill Number:	LB1149
Introducer:	McGill
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to child guardianships and child welfare caseloads
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	Letter
Hearing Date:	02/02/12

Brief Description:

Defines how to count child-welfare cases and limits child-welfare caseloads and the number of caseworkers to be supervised by each supervisor.

Bill Number:	LB1152
Introducer:	Lathrop
One Liner:	Provide job training programs for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Peg

Brief Description:

Amends the Employment Security Law to include in its use of funds “support of public and private on-site job training programs designed to train Nebraskans currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

Bill Number:	LB 1153
Introducer:	Lathrop
One Liner:	Require timely provision of juvenile court-ordered treatment or services
Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Mary Bahney
Action:	
Hearing Date:	No hearing date set

Brief Description: If a juvenile court orders treatment for a juvenile contracted services are to arrange for such services within 5 business days. If this does not happen DHHS will arrange for such services within 3 business days. If the court orders services immediately and it is not done by the contractor for services, the DHHS will provide the services immediately.

Bill Number:	LB1158
Introducer:	Krist
One Liner:	Provide requirements for medical assistance behavioral health managed care contracts
Recommendation:	Monitor.
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	If ending privatization seems infeasible this year, a letter of support for this bill might be a good fallback position.
Hearing Date:	2/8, 1:30, Room 1510

Brief Description:

Requires that medical-assistance contractors have administrative expenses not greater than 7%, limits contractors' profit rates, requires that profits higher than that level be used to fund behavioral health services, that a portion of contractors' reimbursement be performance-based, etc.

Bill Number:	LB1159
Introducer:	Krist
One Liner:	Provide additional requirements and duties relating to state contracts for services valued at twenty-five million dollars or more
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member:	Curtis Bryant
Action:	None
Hearing Date:	2/13, 9:30, Room 1507

Brief Description:

Would require State agencies that want to post RFPs for personal services greater than \$25 million to submit a proof-of-need analysis to the Dept. of Administrative Services materiel division and to use performance-based contracting.

Bill Number:	LB 1160
Introducer:	HHS Committee
One Liner:	Require Department of Health and Human Services to develop an information system and provide for reports and an evaluation

Recommendation:	Support
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

To provide for legislative oversight of the Nebraska child welfare system through an improved data collection system and increased child welfare outcome measurement through increased reporting by lead agencies and the department, and independent evaluation of the child welfare system; and to develop a data collection system to integrate child welfare information into one system to more effectively manage, track, and share information, especially in case management.

Bill Number:	LB 1172
Introducer:	Pirsch
One Liner:	Provide an additional ground for termination of parental rights
Recommendation:	Monitor
Committee Member	Andrea Phillips

Brief Description:

Right now the guideline is to be in out of home care for 15 or more of the last 24 months. This bill adds "A juvenile five years of age or younger has been in out-of-home care for twelve or more consecutive months".

Bill Number:	LR 375CA
Introducer:	Schumacher
One Liner:	Constitutional Amendment to permit the Legislature to authorize games of chance, lotteries, and gift enterprises, provide for compacts with bordering states and to distribute revenues,
Recommendation:	Oppose
Committee Member	Peg O'Dea Lippert
Action:	

Brief Description:

To authorize and regulate any other games of chance, lottery or gift enterprises (over and above what is already allowed) as long as they are not within 60 miles of another state which within one year adoption of this, enters into a compact that, provides for the border state to share gaming revenue in consideration for NE not authorizing gaming within 60 miles. The share will be in proportion to the population residing in Nebraska within 60 miles of the game.

The income of such will go to the cash reserve fund in an amount designated by the legislature. Of the remaining amount, 75% will go for educations as directed by the Leg, 24% for public transportation infrastructure as directed by the legislaure and 1% to the compulsive gamblers fund.

Bill Number:	LB
Introducer:	
One Liner:	
Recommendation:	
Committee Member	
Action:	

Brief Description: