

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB525

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 23, 2011
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Lathrop
One Liner: Provide for a medicaid plan amendment or waiver and transfer of funds relating to the Nebraska Regional Poison Center

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Bloomfield, Campbell, Cook, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:	Representing:
Senator Steve Lathrop	District #12
Walt Radcliffe	Nebraska Medical Center
Kathy Jacobitz	Nebraska Regional Poison Center
Jane Stone	Howard County Medical Center, St. Paul, Nebraska
Victoria Brannon	Self
Annie Wegner	Poison Control Center

Opponents: **Representing:**

Neutral: **Representing:**

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 525 states that the Legislature finds that:

- The Nebraska Regional Poison Center provides a valuable service to Nebraska;
- The center receives over 17,0000 calls annually, 72% of the calls involve children, 27% of the calls relate to children in families whose annual household income is at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level;
- Over 90% of the calls have resulted in children under six years old having their medical concerns addressed at home rather than going to the ER, using 911 or emergency medical services; and
- The operation of the center results in a cost savings of \$175 per call in 1996 dollars.

LB 525 requires the department, on or before January 1, 2012, to submit an application to CMS to amend the Medicaid state plan or seek a waiver to provide for utilization of the unused administrative cap to allow for payments to the Nebraska Regional Poison Center funded through the University of Nebraska Medical Center Cash fund to help offset the cost for treatment of children eligible for assistance under CHIP.

The bill states that, upon approval of the plan, UNMC shall transfer an amount, not to exceed \$250,000, to the department to meet the state match to maximize the use of the unused administrative cap money. When the department receives the transferred amount (or any portion thereof) and the corollary federal funds, the department shall transfer the combined funds to the UNMC Cash Fund for operation of the Nebraska Regional Poison Center. If the plan

is not approved, or if less than \$250,000 is needed for the match, the UNMC may use the remaining state appropriation for the operation of the Nebraska Regional Poison Center.

The bill provides that UNMC shall report to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, on or before October 1 of every year, the amount transferred to the department in the prior fiscal year and the amount of matching funds received under this section for the Nebraska Regional Poison Center in the prior fiscal year.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson