

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB957

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: January 26, 2012

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The Inspector General for Nebraska Child Welfare Act would establish a full time program of investigation and performance review to provide increased accountability and oversight of the Nebraska child welfare system; Assist in improving operations of the department the Nebraska child welfare system; and Deter and identify fraud, abuse and illegal acts. The Inspector General for Nebraska Child Welfare would provide a permanent office to examine issues in Nebraska Child Welfare and assist with providing systems performance issues information to the Legislature.

The position would be within the Public Counsel's Office (Ombudsman), which would appoint the Inspector General for Children's Services for a term of 5 years with approval of the Chair of the Executive Board and the Chair of the HHS Committee. The position would investigate (1) allegations of misconduct, misfeasance, malfeasance, or violations of statutes or rules and regulations by an employee of DHHS, a private agency, a licensed child care facility, a foster parent, or any other provider of child welfare services; (2) death or serious injury in foster homes, private agencies, child care facilities and programs, and other programs and facilities licensed by DHHS; (3) death or serious injury the any case in which services are provided by DHHS to a child or his or her parents; or (4) any case open for one year or less involving an investigation under the Child Protection Act.

The bill sets out how complaints may be made; provides for confidentiality of records; and requires reports to the Legislature and Governor.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator