

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 936**

Introduced by Bolz, 29; Campbell, 25; Lathrop, 12.

Read first time January 16, 2014

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to state wards; to create and provide duties for  
2 the State Ward Permanency Pilot Project; to provide for  
3 collection of data and reports; to provide for  
4 termination; and to state intent relating to fund  
5 transfers and appropriations.  
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) The State Ward Permanency Pilot Project is  
2 created. The purpose of the pilot project is to provide developmental  
3 disabilities services to state wards in order to provide optimal  
4 habilitative supports and promote permanency.

5           (2) The pilot project shall serve (a) state wards who are  
6 eligible for services through the Division of Developmental  
7 Disabilities of the Department of Health and Human Services and who  
8 do not qualify for priority status and (b) state wards who are in  
9 need of habilitative supports to achieve permanency. Services shall  
10 include any service provided pursuant to the Developmental  
11 Disabilities Services Act available to persons under twenty-one years  
12 of age.

13           (3) A state ward shall be eligible to participate in the  
14 pilot project if he or she qualifies for developmental disabilities  
15 services or has been assessed to need habilitative supports. State  
16 wards currently receiving an enhanced level of care through letters  
17 of agreement between the Division of Children and Family Services of  
18 the Department of Health and Human Services and the Division of  
19 Developmental Disabilities of the department and state wards with  
20 above-average habilitative needs as indicated on assessments shall be  
21 given priority to participate in the pilot project.

22           Sec. 2. The Division of Developmental Disabilities of the  
23 Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Children and  
24 Family Services of the department or any lead agency, the State  
25 Department of Education, and developmental disabilities service

1 providers shall collaborate to implement the State Ward Permanency  
2 Pilot Project to promote stability and permanency for state wards, to  
3 provide assessments, and to provide training to caseworkers and  
4 service providers.

5           Sec. 3. The State Ward Permanency Pilot Project shall  
6 collect data on the following:

7           (1) The impact of services provided pursuant to the pilot  
8 project on state wards' developmental progress;

9           (2) The number of state wards participating in the pilot  
10 project who achieve permanency in the child welfare system, including  
11 adoption, permanent guardianship, reunification, or another form of  
12 permanency;

13           (3) Data which indicates the level of stability in  
14 placements for state wards participating in the pilot project;

15           (4) The total number of state wards participating in the  
16 pilot project and their current status in the child welfare system;  
17 and

18           (5) The impact on the overall support to families before  
19 and after permanency is achieved through adoption, permanent  
20 guardianship, reunification, or another form of permanency for twelve  
21 months following court involvement.

22           Sec. 4. The State Ward Permanency Pilot Project shall  
23 report the data collected pursuant to section 3 of this act to the  
24 Foster Care Review Office which shall analyze the data and  
25 electronically provide a report to the Health and Human Services

1 Committee of the Legislature and the Appropriations Committee of the  
2 Legislature every six months during the term of the pilot project.

3           Sec. 5. The State Ward Permanency Pilot Project shall  
4 terminate June 30, 2016.

5           Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature (1) that  
6 \$972,000 be transferred from funds available to the Division of  
7 Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human  
8 Services to the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the  
9 department in FY2014-15 and FY2015-16 and (2) to appropriate \$528,000  
10 each fiscal year of FY2014-15 and FY2015-16 to carry out sections 1  
11 to 4 of this act.