

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB273

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: January 28, 2021

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

LB273 expands options for transferring individuals who are placed at a Nebraska youth rehabilitation and treatment center (YRTC) to the most suitable treatment facilities based on their individual needs and treatment plan.

Under legislation enacted in 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) can only transfer an individual to facilities licensed to provide inpatient or subacute substance abuse services with seven (7) day notice to the courts. However, high-acuity youth may have differing specialized needs that do not reach that level of care.

DHHS established specialized programming at the Lincoln Facility to address this very issue by providing additional supports, services, and specialized attention to youth in the YRTC system. The Lincoln facility has already proven to be a success for high-acuity youth. Other YRTC facilities or treatment centers may need to be utilized to provide the necessary services to support an individual's rehabilitation and treatment. When high acuity youth are not provided the appropriate services for their care, this can often put the youth themselves, other youth in the facility, and DHHS staff at risk. Providing flexibility in placement options will allow for youth to receive treatment based on individual needs assessment.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Lowe