



**Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 530**

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**Hearing Date:** February 1, 2001  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducers:** (Suttle, Aguilar, Burling, Byars, Connealy, Cunningham, Engel, Erdman, Foley, Dw. Pedersen, Quandahl, Robak, Smith)

**Title:** Create the Mental and Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services Task Force

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- X Advanced to General File
  - Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

|   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 5 | Yes                 | Senator Jensen, Suttle, Price, Cunningham and Maxwell |
|   | No                  |   |
| 1 | Present, not voting | Senator Erdman  |
| 1 | Absent              | Senator Byars   |

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**Proponents:**

Senator Deb Suttle  
 Tricia Blakely  
 Jerry Denton  
 Mary Hoover  
 Scott Adams  
 Denis McCarville

**Representing:**

Introducer  
 Self  
 Self  
 Self  
 Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska  
 Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska

**Opponents:**

Aleisa McKinlay  
 Ron Ross  
 Constance Zimmer

**Representing:**

Nebraska Advocacy Services  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Nebraska Mental Health Planning and Evaluation

**Neutral:**

Topher Hanson  
 J. Rock Johnson

**Representing:**

Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health  
 Self

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:** The bill creates the Mental and Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services Task Force. The task force consists of fifteen members, including the deputy director for behavioral health of the Department of Health and Human Services, one regional administrator, one county board member selected by the Nebraska Association of County Officials, one representative of the Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska, one

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psychiatrist member of the Nebraska Medical Association, one representative of the Nebraska Psychiatric Association, one representative of the Nebraska Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, one representative of the Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations, one representative of the National Association for the Mentally Ill – Nebraska, three members of the Legislature or their designated staff members, and three at-large members appointed by the Governor, one from each congressional district.

Appointments to the task force must be made within 60 days after the effective date of the act. The School of Social Work of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is required to provide staff support to the task force and produce its final report.

Duties of the task force are provided, and include: (1) examine and identify factors contributing to current statewide crisis in community-based mental and behavioral health services and substance abuse services, (2) examine the purposes and operation of the Nebraska Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Act and recommend improvements, (3) examine the impact of Medicaid managed care on service delivery, (4) examine structure, operations, practices, and efficiencies of the mental health regions compared to other service delivery systems, and make recommendations for improvements, (5) examine and identify the strengths, weaknesses, and issues faced by private providers of community-based services, (6) analyze the service need of consumers in Nebraska, prioritize those services needs, determine the appropriate level of funding to address such service needs, and recommend short-term and long-term funding strategies, and (7) submit a final report to the legislature and the Governor by May 1, 2002.

The act terminates on June 1, 2002.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson**