

AMENDMENTS TO LB927

Introduced by Fredrickson, 20.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. For purposes of providing training for individuals
4 involved in the child welfare system, the Department of Health and Human
5 Services shall develop a baseline of curriculum and training materials
6 related to suicide awareness and prevention in consultation with
7 statewide and national organizations and professionals with expertise in
8 behavioral and mental health and suicide prevention, including, but not
9 limited to, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition and the
10 Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska. All such suicide
11 awareness and prevention training shall incorporate evidence-based
12 practices and may include, but not be limited to, (1) identification of
13 early warning signs and symptoms of behavioral and mental health issues
14 for youth in the child welfare system and (2) appropriate and effective
15 responses for behavioral and mental health issues and trauma-informed
16 care.

17 Sec. 2. All staff of the Department of Health and Human Services
18 that are involved in the implementation of the Child Protection and
19 Family Safety Act or involved in the implementation of the powers and
20 duties of the department prescribed in Chapter 43, and any other
21 appropriate personnel as determined by the Division of Children and
22 Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, shall
23 have training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training shall
24 include at least ninety minutes of behavioral and mental health training
25 with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention prior to any independent
26 contact with youth and families and annually thereafter. Such training
27 shall be provided within the framework of existing training programs

1 offered by the department.

2 Sec. 3. Section 71-1904, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 71-1904 (1) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and
5 regulations pursuant to sections 71-1901 to 71-1906.01 for (a) the proper
6 care and protection of children by licensees under such sections, (b) the
7 issuance, suspension, and revocation of licenses to provide foster care,
8 (c) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of probationary licenses to
9 provide foster care, (d) the issuance, suspension, and revocation of
10 provisional licenses to provide foster care, (e) the provision of
11 training in foster care, which training shall be directly related to the
12 skills necessary to care for children in need of out-of-home care,
13 including, but not limited to, abused, neglected, dependent, and
14 delinquent children, and (f) the proper administration of sections
15 71-1901 to 71-1906.01.

16 (2) The department may issue a waiver for any licensing standard not
17 related to children's safety for a relative home that is pursuing
18 licensure. Such waivers shall be granted on a case-by-case basis upon
19 assessment by the department based upon the best interests of the child.
20 A relative home that receives a waiver pursuant to this subsection shall
21 be considered fully licensed for purposes of federal reimbursement under
22 the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act
23 of 2008, Public Law 110-351.

24 (3) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
25 establishing new foster home licensing requirements that ensure
26 children's safety, health, and well-being but minimize the use of
27 licensing mandates for nonsafety issues. Such rules and regulations shall
28 provide alternatives to address nonsafety issues regarding housing and
29 provide assistance to families in overcoming licensing barriers,
30 especially in child-specific relative and kinship placements, to maximize
31 appropriate reimbursement under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security

1 Act, as amended, including expanding the use of kinship guardianship
2 assistance payments under 42 U.S.C. 673(d), as such act and section
3 existed on January 1, 2013.

4 (4) The department shall include suicide awareness and prevention
5 training meeting the requirements of section 1 of this act for initial
6 licensure and renewal of licensure pursuant to sections 71-1901 to
7 71-1906.01.

8 Sec. 4. Section 71-1924, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
9 2022, is amended to read:

10 71-1924 Sections 71-1924 to 71-1951 and section 5 of this act shall
11 be known and may be cited as the Children's Residential Facilities and
12 Placing Licensure Act.

13 Sec. 5. The department shall establish standardized suicide
14 awareness and prevention training requirements for all employees of a
15 child-placing agency prior to any independent contact with youth and
16 families. Such training shall incorporate a baseline of curriculum
17 materials described in section 1 of this act while also allowing a child-
18 placing agency to incorporate training elements that meet the specific
19 needs of the individual agency. The department may approve the existing
20 curriculum of a child-placing agency if such curriculum meets the
21 baseline of curriculum pursuant to section 1 of this act.

22 Sec. 6. Original section 71-1904, Reissue Revised Statutes of
23 Nebraska, and section 71-1924, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
24 2022, are repealed.