

## **Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee**

### **Policy Analyst Update**

**Date: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The Nebraska Legislature has officially adjourned sine die on April 17<sup>th</sup>. This session wrapped up with a mix of meaningful policy advancements, a tight budget deficit to address, and a handful of gubernatorial vetoes that shaped final outcomes. Below is a concise overview of possibilities for involvement in the interim session, as well as a synopsis of passed legislation that can impact B2I population and aging out youth.

### **Session Overview**

Several bills with direct or adjacent impact on youth in care and young adults transitioning to independence were successfully enacted this session:

- LB70 (DeBoer): Expands adoption options to include a second adult, helping open additional permanency pathways, particularly for older youth.
- LB320 (Sanders): Strengthens human trafficking awareness and training requirements, this is critical given the heightened vulnerability of youth aging out of care.
- LB741 (McKinney): Adjusts membership of the Children's Commission and the Racial Profiling Advisory Committee (Crime Commission).
- LB751 (Spivey): Requires a study on missing Black women and children, advancing data transparency and system accountability.
- LB1155 (Legislative Oversight Committee): Enhances legislative oversight authority, reinforcing accountability across child welfare and related systems.

One of the more significant developments this session was the passage of LB962 (McKinney), adopting the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act. This bill focuses on helping young people successfully transition from juvenile systems back into their communities. This closely aligns with B2I priorities, particularly for young people who are dually involved across child welfare and juvenile systems. Shared focus areas include stable housing, education and employment pathways, cross-system case coordination, long-term transition planning, and reducing repeat involvement.

Additionally, we successfully stopped the elimination of the Alternative Response Advisory Committee (ARAC). Preserving this crucial committee maintains an important layer of oversight on child welfare intake decisions.

### **Interim Study Involvement**

There are multiple interim studies that could be beneficial for the Committee to consider involvement on. These include LR413 (DeBoer) that examines Nebraska statutes and processes related to guardianship; LR467 (McKinney) explores policies and investments that make the state more attractive to young people; LR452 (Spivey) which examines cross-system service funding streams between child welfare and juvenile justice. LR's that impact the Children's Commission include: LR380, LR391, LR403, LR412, LR423, LR425, and LR466.