

1 The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty
2 thousand dollars from the Commission on Public Advocacy Operations
3 Cash Fund to the University Cash Fund within fifteen days after
4 May 1, 2008. Such funds shall be used for a study of the
5 juvenile legal defense and guardian ad litem systems utilizing
6 the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to create,
7 administer, and review a Request for Proposals to select from
8 a national search a research consultant that is qualified to
9 provide a methodologically sound and objective assessment of
10 Nebraska's juvenile justice system. The assessment shall include:
11 (1) Gathering of general data and information about the structure
12 and funding mechanisms for juvenile legal defense and guardian ad
13 litem representation; (2) a review of caseloads; (3) examining
14 issues related to the timing of appointment of counsel and
15 guardians ad litem; (4) supervision of attorneys; (5) charging
16 and trying juveniles as adults; (6) frequency with which juveniles
17 waive their right to counsel and under what conditions they do
18 so; (7) allocation of resources; (8) adequacy of juvenile court
19 facilities; (9) compensation of attorneys; (10) supervising and
20 training of attorneys; (11) access to investigators, experts,
21 social workers, and support staff; (12) access to educational
22 officers, teachers, educational staff, and truancy officers; (13)
23 the relationship between a guardian ad litem, a juvenile's legal
24 counsel, and the judicial system with identified educational
25 staff regarding a juvenile's educational status; (14) examining

1 issues related to truancy and the relationship between the school
2 districts and the juvenile court system; (15) recidivism; (16) time
3 to permanency and time in court, especially when a guardian ad
4 litem is appointed; and (17) coordination of representation for
5 those juveniles that may have been appointed an attorney in a
6 juvenile delinquency matter and a guardian ad litem because of
7 abuse or neglect. The assessment shall also highlight promising
8 approaches and innovative practices within the state and offer
9 recommendations to improve weak areas.

10 Sec. 3. Section 54-857, Reissue Revised Statutes of
11 Nebraska, is amended to read:

12 54-857 All money received pursuant to the Commercial Feed
13 Act shall be remitted by the director to the State Treasurer for
14 credit to the Commercial Feed Administration Cash Fund which is
15 hereby created. Such fund shall be used by the department to aid
16 in defraying the expenses of administering the act. Any money in
17 the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
18 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act
19 and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

20 On or before October 1, 2008, the State Treasurer shall
21 transfer two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the Commercial
22 Feed Administration Cash Fund to the Noxious Weed and Invasive
23 Plant Species Assistance Fund.

24 Sec. 4. Section 71-7608, Revised Statutes Supplement,
25 2007, is amended to read: