Nebraska Legislature to Discuss Medicaid Expansion

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A new effort to expand Medicaid coverage in Nebraska is headed to a full debate in the Legislature.

The Health and Human Services Committee voted 5-2 on Tuesday to advance the Medicaid Redesign Act to the floor.

The lead sponsor, Sen. Kathy Campbell of Lincoln, has said this year's version would help the state uncover more efficient ways to provide health care coverage.

The bill would require the state to apply for a federal waiver to develop its own Medicaid plan, as other states reluctant about the expansion have done.

Two previous efforts to expand Medicaid have failed due to opposition from conservative lawmakers. The bill is still likely to face resistance from those lawmakers as well as Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts.

Associated Press