



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 305

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 4, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The bill amends the statutes to expand the source list for jury pools in order to reduce the racial disparities found on many Nebraska juries. This recommendation is from the Nebraska Minority Justice Committee's Minority and Justice Task Force.

This is a joint effort of the Nebraska Supreme Court and the Nebraska State Bar Association.

Based on an examination of juror qualification forms from eight of Nebraska's most diverse counties, data indicate that there are currently significant racial disparities in the initial and eligible pools of jurors. State laws provides that master jury lists are comprised by combining the list of registered voters and registered drivers in the state of Nebraska.

There are concerns that because minorities may be less likely to be registered to vote and less likely to be registered to drive, current source lists may not effectively achieve a representative master list.

Therefore, this bill would increase the number of source lists used to create the master jury list to include individuals with state identification cards in the interest of creating a representative cross section of the community.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Brenda Council