

# One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB265

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**Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing:**

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

LB 265 allows foster children to access kinship and relative foster care more easily. It accomplishes this by:

- Defining kinship homes as homes where the caretaker has lived with the child(ren) or has had significant contact with the child(ren);
- Defining relative homes as homes where caretaker is related to the child(ren);
- And exempting kinship and relative homes from licensure. However, such homes must be approved by the Department via a background check and a home visit. In addition, such homes may voluntarily pursue licensure and would have the assistance of the Department to do so.
  - For relative homes pursuing licensure, non-safety requirements may be waived. A relative home that meets all other licensing requirements would be considered fully-licensed for the purposes of drawing federal funding from the Fostering Connections Act.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Colby Coash**