

# **One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB920**

---

**Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: January 29, 2014**

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

LB920 adopts the Public Guardianship Act.

Nebraska is the only state in the union that does not have a central office for public guardian. Nebraska relies on volunteers to fill the roles of guardians and conservators.

LB920 would adopt legislative findings that the present system of obtaining a guardian for a person in need is inadequate and that there is a need to provide guardians and conservators when there is no one suitable or available.

It is the intent of LB920 to create the Office of Public Guardian in the State of Nebraska. The office will be under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska State Court Administrator. The Office of Public Guardian establishes a director of the Office of Public Guardian, a deputy public guardian, and up to twelve associate guardians. While our state will need to continue to rely on volunteers, the office will serve as a means of last resort as guardian or conservator for those situations where no family member or suitable individual is available. In addition, the office will provide education, training, and support to current and future guardians and conservators.

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

**Senator Colby Coash**