

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB256

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Urban Affairs

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2017

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

The purpose of LB 256 is to promote the health, safety and welfare of Nebraskans by giving communities statutory authority to enact Vacant Property Registration Ordinances. Such ordinances will allow communities to identify and register vacant properties, collect fees to compensate for the public costs of property vacancy, plan for the rehabilitation of vacant properties, and encourage the occupancy of such properties.

Under LB 256, a municipality may adopt a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance, or a VPRO, which may apply to residential or commercial building, or both. The VPRO will create a city wide vacant property registration database, administered by a city employee.

Owners of vacant property subject to the VPRO will be required to register their properties within six months of the properties becoming vacant, and may provide for fines for failure to comply with the ordinance. VPROs will require a plan for occupancy of the property, may allow the program administrator to inspect the property upon registration, and at one year intervals thereafter. A VPRO may require the payment of a fee within one year of the vacancy of the property, and may require the payment of supplemental registration fees at intervals no more frequently than every six months thereafter, for as long as the property remains on the vacant property registration database.

A VPRO may provide for exemptions to the fee requirement.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tom Briese