

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LR279CA

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 28, 2024
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Holdcroft
One Liner: Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to enact laws providing for a minimum term of life imprisonment for certain offenses against first responders

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Blood, Bosn, DeKay, Holdcroft, Ibach
Nay:	3	Senators DeBoer, McKinney, Wayne
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Rick Holdcroft
Timothy F. Dunning
Sam Stone

Representing:
Opening Presenter
Self
Back the Blue

Opponents:
Spike Eickholt

Representing:
American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska |
Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

Neutral:
Justin Hubly

Representing:
NAPE/AFSCME Local 61

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LR279CA would submit to the voters a new section in Article XV of the Nebraska Constitution.

The new section would require the Legislature to enact laws to require anyone convicted of assault on a first responder resulting in serious physical injury to be sentenced to a minimum term of 25 years in prison.

This new section would also require the Legislature to enact laws to mandate a minimum sentence of life in prison for any person convicted of murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree of a first responder during the commission of another criminal offense.

First responder would be defined as including, but not limited to, police officers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, firefighters,



emergency medical providers, Department of Health and Human Services employees, health care professionals, correctional officers, and Nebraska National Guard members while deployed within the State of Nebraska.

Explanation of amendments:

The amendment would make three changes.

First, the provisions would not apply to minors.

Second, the requirement would only apply when the first responder is engaged in the performance of their official duties.

Third, the definition of “first responder” would be change to replace “police officers, sheriffs, and deputy sheriffs” with “law enforcement officers”. Department of Health and Human Services employees would be removed from the definition.

Justin Wayne, Chairperson

