

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB337

Chairperson: Senator Ben Hansen

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 03, 2023

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

Currently, those practicing under the Mental Health Practice Act cannot share information without the consent of the client or when they have a duty to warn. There are times when clients are unable to consent to information sharing (intoxication, psychiatric crisis). LB 337 will align Nebraska state law to align with HIPAA.

LB 337 would significantly decrease the barriers that mental health practitioners experience when trying to coordinate treatment activities or make referrals for care when client consent cannot be obtained. These challenges often occur by those serving individuals who are in the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. When consent cannot be obtained, LB 337 would allow mental health practitioners to share the minimum amount necessary of protected health information to improve access and continuity of care and reduce duplication of efforts.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Merv Riepe