

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB15

Hearing Date: Thursday February 26, 2015
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Krist
One Liner: Provide additional powers and duties for guardians ad litem

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

Vote Results:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Aye: | 7 | Senators Coash, Ebke, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Seiler, Williams |
| Nay: | | |
| Absent: | 1 | Senator Chambers |
| Present Not Voting: | | |

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

SEN. BOB KRIST
COREY STEEL
BEVERLY EBY
MELANIE WILLIAMS-SMOTHERMAN
LAURA MCCORMACK
KATHLEEN "MINDA" SILLS
MACKENZIE MARIE SILLS
ANGELITA BEVERLY SILLS-CAMPOS
MOLLY FLYNN
LAURIE FLYNN
WAYNE WESTON
TONYA WARD
JOE NIGRO
JULIET SUMMERS
ROBERT MCEWEN

Representing:

INTRODUCER
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SELF
FAMILY ADVOCACY MOVEMENT
SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
LANCASTER COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
VOICES FOR CHILDREN
NEBRASKA APPLESEED

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

WILLIAM MONOCHLE
SAMUEL WESTON
ELIAD WESTON
SHILO WESTON
ELIZABETH NEELEY
BETHANY CONNOR

Representing:

SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
NEBRASKA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
NE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION LEGAL PARTIES
TASK FORCE

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB15 would codify the Nebraska Supreme Court's Guidelines for Guardians Ad Litem for Juveniles in Juvenile Court

Proceedings into statute. These Guidelines were adopted by the Court July 18, 2007, but have not been formally adopted as court rules.

LB15 would also allow guardian ad litem to be compensated on a per-case basis or pursuant to a multi-case contract. The guardian ad litem would be required by LB15 to prepare and submit an itemized billing statement to the court and the entity the guardian ad litem contracts with for payment.

LB15 would also define "consultation" as meeting the juvenile in person, unless exception circumstances prevent such a meeting.

Explanation of amendments:

AM514 would not codify the Guidelines for Guardians ad Litem for Juveniles in Juvenile Court Proceedings, but would require the Supreme Court to codify these Guidelines into Supreme Court rules by July 1, 2015.

AM514 would require a guardian ad litem to consult with a juvenile in his or her placement within two weeks and requires subsequent consultations every three months instead of every six months.

The amendment would also require the guardian ad litem to submit written reports that contain certain information at dispositional, review or permanency planning hearings.

AM514 would also clarify that multi-case contracts for guardian ad litem services are still permitted, but guardians ad litem must submit itemized statements to the court and the contracting entity.

AM514 also adds an emergency clause

Les Seiler, Chairperson