

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB539

Chairperson: Senator John Murante

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 06, 2015

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

LB 539 would better equip the Legislative Audit Office and the Auditor of Public Accounts to carry out their respective tasks by ensuring that the offices are equally empowered to require audited entities to respond timely and responsibly to requests for audit records and documentation.

LB 539 would amend the statutes of the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) and the Legislative Audit Office (Audit Office) to accomplish three key goals. First, the bill would require state agencies to respond to a request for information from the APA or Audit Office within three business days of the request. For particularly difficult or extensive requests the agency would have up to three weeks to provide the requested information. The bill also provides penalties for willful failure to comply with the deadlines.

Second, the bill prohibits and penalizes retaliatory personnel action against state and political subdivision employees who provide information to the Audit Office or APA. Finally, the bill would ensure the APA and Audit Office's authority to review agency information protected under the attorney-client privilege, while prohibiting inappropriate release of that information.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Dan Watermeier