

**Legislature - First Session - 2015**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB647**

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**Chairperson: Senator Les Seiler**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing:**

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

It is the intent of LB 647 to ensure the maximum availability of potential suitable placements for children in out-of-home care. LB 647 prohibits discrimination by the Department of Health and Human Services based upon race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status or national origin when determining the suitability of an out-of-home placement for a juvenile pursuant to the Nebraska Juvenile Code or when issuing a foster care license.

LB 647 maintains that child placement decisions should be made based upon the health, safety and well-being of the child, taking into consideration the requirements of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, the federal Multi Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 and the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Jeremy Nordquist**