

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - Second Session - 2018

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB776

Chairperson: Senator Laura Ebke

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: January 18, 2018

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

Under current law the Jail Standards Board (Board) has the authority and responsibility to develop minimum standards regarding the construction, maintenance and operation of the jails in Nebraska. LB 776 would expand the authority of the Board to include regulation of inmate telephone services that local jails provide with respect to cost, and inmates' telephonic access to family and counsel.

LB 776 would provide that the Board ensure that local jails, or political subdivisions, do not accept or receive revenue in excess of the reasonable operating costs for establishing and administering such telephone or videoconferencing service systems. Amounts in excess of the reasonable operating costs include any commission or bonus payment to a jail or political subdivision for contracting with an entity that provides such service.

The Board would ensure that local jails provide inmates with affordable and meaningful methods for communicating by telephone or videoconferencing with inmates' families, loved ones and counsel.

LB 776 would require that the provider of the inmate telephone services allow inmates to communicate, by telephone or videoconferencing, with their attorneys without charge, and without monitoring or recording by the county jail or law enforcement.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John McCollister