

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB220**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 27, 2019  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Wishart  
**One Liner:** Change provisions regarding vending facility programs in state buildings for blind vendors

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

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 6 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, Hansen, B., Howard, Murman, Williams  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:** 1 Senator Walz  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Anna Wishart  
Carlos Servan

Rebecca Stevens  
Ronnie Kellogg  
Mark Bulger  
Carol Jenkins

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Self  
Nebraska Commission for the Blind  
American Council of the Blind of Nebraska  
Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 220 amends the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-8601, et. seq.)

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act codifies, in part, a federal law which creates a vending facilities program. The vending facilities program creates opportunities for blind and visually impaired persons to be gainfully employed through the operation of vending facilities on federal property. (20 U.S.C. 107, et. seq.) Nebraska's law also allows for the operation of vending facilities by licensed blind persons on state owned or operated buildings and property. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-8611, page 3.)

LB 220 inserts a provision that would allow a blind licensee to operate a vending facility rent free on state owned property. (Sec. 2, page 3, lines 21-21.)

It also strikes language that gives a priority to a blind persons for the rental of a vending facility only if other aspects of the blind person's bid was found to be reasonable equivalent to all other bidders. (Sec. 2, page 3, lines 22-27.)

LB 220 also inserts language whenever the federal law is referenced to reference to the federal law as it existed on January 1, 2019. (Sec. 1, page 2, lines 23-24 and Sec. 2, page 3, line 8.)

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 660 inserts new language on page 3, line 22, to require that a blind vendor selected to operate a vending facility must offer products "at prices comparable to similar products sold in similar buildings or on similar property."

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Sara Howard, Chairperson