

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB733

Hearing Date: Thursday March 14, 2019
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Kolowski
One Liner: Provide and change requirements for polling places

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Blood, Brewer, Hansen, M., Hilgers, Hunt, Kolowski, La Grone, Lowe
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rick Kolowski
Edison McDonald
John Cartier
Gavin Geis
Wayne Bena
Brad Meurrens

Representing:

Introducer
The Arc of Nebraska
Civic Nebraska
Common Cause Nebraska
Nebraska Secretary of State
Disability Rights Nebraska

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Beth Bazyn Ferrell

Representing:

NACO

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 733 would amend the Election Act to provide additional requirements relating to polling place accessibility for persons with disabilities. These would include detailed requirements for handicap-accessible parking accommodations, exterior routes to accessible entrances, the entrances themselves, signage, routes from entrances to the voting area, the voting area itself, ramps in or outside of the polling place, and lifts/elevators.

The bill would also require the Secretary of State to provide biennial training for election commissioners and county clerks relating to these accessibility standards. It would also require training for poll workers.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment, AM 738, removes most of the dimensional and other physical specifications in the introduced version of the bill, and instead provides a list of characteristics that must be in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The amendment also clarifies the related duties of the Secretary of State, including a training manual that the Secretary will produce, and biennial training for

election commissioners and county clerks on accessibility standards. The amendment language also provides that poll workers must receive training on accessibility after they are appointed and before they serve in an election.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson