

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB879**

---

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday January 19, 2022  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Cavanaugh, J.  
**One Liner:** Provide for answers of no contest in adjudication hearings under the Nebraska Juvenile Code

---

**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

---

**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Brandt, DeBoer, Geist, Lathrop, McKinney, Morfeld, Pansing  
Brooks, Slama

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

---

**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator John Cavanaugh  
Joe Nigro

Tim Hruza

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Lancaster County Public Defender & Nebraska Criminal  
Defense Attorneys Association  
Nebraska State Bar Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

---

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

LB879 would amend two sections to allow juvenile courts to accept answers of no contest at adjudication hearings. An answer of no contest would allow a juvenile court to have jurisdiction without requiring the juvenile to make specific admissions of fact.

Section 1 would amend Sec. 43-279 to add the option of an answer of no contest where the current statute requires an admission.

Section 2 would amend Sec. 43-280 to add answers of no contest to a provision that prohibits admissions and statements in juvenile court from being admitted as evidence against the juvenile in an adult criminal or civil proceeding.

---

---

Steve Lathrop, Chairperson