

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB357

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: January 28, 2021

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

LB 357 would create the Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights. The bill would provide foster youth in out-of-home placements and those placed in Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers with a list of rights related to services, connection to family, life skills and transition planning, and how to file a grievance or appeal if they believe their rights have been violated.

The bill would ensure that youth are expressly informed of these rights at regular intervals in an age-appropriate manner by their caseworker.

While Nebraska currently informs youth of basic rights as required by federal law and agency regulation, foster youth and advocates have expressed that the current rights enumerated are not broad enough and are not being communicated in a way that youth retain and fully understand them. LB 357 will help ensure youth in the foster system are well-versed in their rights and know how to advocate for themselves.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Megan Hunt