

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB443

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brewer

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2021

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

LB443 exempts local foster care review boards established under Section 43-1304 from the Open Meetings Act. These local volunteer boards conduct case reviews of children in foster care placement and consist of members chosen by the executive director of the Foster Care Review Office. These are not policymaking boards.

These boards already have an exemption for discussion of child-specific and family-specific information regarding mental and behavioral health under Section 43-1308. Because the purpose of local foster care review boards is to discuss individual cases involving children, this exception already covers virtually all of their business, and thus removing them from the Open Meetings Act entirely would have minimal impact on the amount of public information available to Nebraskans.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Matt Hansen