

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB557

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:

LB557 updates the Nebraska Public Records Act to make public records more accessible. First, it makes a distinction between residents and nonresidents and provides for residents of Nebraska and the news media to have greater access to public records without paying additional costs. Current law provides agencies with the authority to charge beyond the first four hours of staff time in retrieving public records. LB557 would lengthen that window of time to eight hours for residents and the news media.

Second, LB557 requires that all estimates of expected costs to fulfill a records request be attested to under oath by the custodian of the public records.

Lastly, the bill increases access to certain records by stating that police body camera recordings that involve the death of a person who is being apprehended or in the custody of law enforcement are considered public records for purposes of the Act.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Matt Hansen