

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB163

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 1, 2023

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

This bill will require capping the cost of commissary goods at 10% for state and county jails, prisons, and detention centers/institutions, raise the pay for incarcerated individuals in state facilities to the state minimum wage in NDCS, Cornhusker state industries, and any other authorized employer.

This bill will also allocate five million dollars into the inmate welfare cash fund from cash reserves, it will place another five million into the reentry cash fund from cash reserves expanding them to all facilities.

This bill places a ban on jail and prison expansions by prohibiting the state or any public agency from building new facilities, studying or identifying sites for new facilities, or expanding or converting portions of an existing facility to expand detention capacity until admissions and the length of stays decline over a twenty year period. This determination will be subject to review by the legislature.

This bill will reduce the cost of calls by requiring that contracts be negotiated on the basis of the lowest possible cost to consumers and prohibit the state from receiving any portion of the revenue in state prisons and local jails.

This bill will ban the copying of legal mail and mail from public officials, and allow state officials to utilize phones in NDCS facilities including Senators, Inspector General, and Ombudsman.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Terrell McKinney