

**One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB668**

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**Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: March 09, 2023**

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

The stated purpose of LB 668 is to authorize mental health professionals and licensed independent mental health practitioners to begin the process to take persons into emergency protective custody. Currently, only sworn peace officers are allowed to begin the process of emergency protective custody. This bill is meant to extend this initiation process to health care workers with knowledge of mental health and mental health issues where a person could be a danger to themselves or other persons. It could alleviate some pressures on sworn peace officers and provide better treatment options to persons with mental health issues.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Raymond Aguilar**