

## LB916

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### Bill History

Introduced by: Sen. Sara Howard

Heard by: Judiciary Committee

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### Bill Summary

LB916 would provide civil and criminal immunity to any person who forcibly removes an animal from a motor vehicle. The bill is designed to help people remove animals from potentially dangerous situations, including excessively hot cars. To receive full immunity, the person must meet a number of requirements, all outlined in the bill.

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### Talking Points from Testifiers

#### For LB916

- A pet's normal body temperature is already higher than humans'. Humidity of just 35% can impact an animal's ability to regulate temperature. Imagine what would happen if that same animal were left in a vehicle on one of Nebraska's characteristic hot and muggy August afternoons.
- The temperature inside a vehicle can rise almost 20° F in just 10 minutes. In 20 minutes, it can rise almost 30° F. At 60 minutes, the temperature in your vehicle can be more than 40 degrees higher than the outside temperature. Even on a 70-degree day, that's 110 degrees inside your vehicle!

#### Against LB916

- The average citizen should never feel empowered to damage the personal property of another citizen, simply because he or she has decided an animal is in danger. That assessment should only be made by animal control or law enforcement professionals.
  - Completely removing a person's legal recourse for damaged property is irresponsible. Even if a citizen acted in good faith to free an animal perceived to be in distress, the damage could cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars.
  - LB916 would create vigilantes who may feel empowered to insert themselves into other scenarios where law enforcement should be responding.
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### Further Research

Nebraska Legislature: [nebraskalegislature.gov](http://nebraskalegislature.gov)

Unicameral Update: [update.legislature.ne.gov](http://update.legislature.ne.gov)