

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1085

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 24, 2024
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Holdcroft
One Liner: Eliminate provisions relating to establishment of new separate juvenile court districts and rename existing districts

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 5 Senators Ibach, Holdcroft, DeKay, DeBoer, Bosn
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 3 Senators Blood, McKinney, Wayne

Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Rick Holdcroft
Tim Hruza

Representing:
Opening Presenter
Nebraska State Bar Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:
Corey Steel
Spike Eickholt
Benjamin Buras

Representing:
Administrative Office of Courts and Probation
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Self

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Article V Section 27 of the Nebraska Constitution authorizes the Legislature to establish juvenile courts and provide for the jurisdiction, powers, and creation of such districts. This section provides that no juvenile court may be established or abolished unless approved by a majority vote of the people.

Nebraska currently has three separate juvenile courts in Sarpy County (District 2), Lancaster County (District 3), and Douglas County (District 4).

Section 43-2,111 currently provides for a separate juvenile court in any county with 75,000 or more inhabitants and whenever the establishment of a new court is authorized by county voters.

Section 1 of LB1085 would remove the population trigger and eliminate the power of the voters to establish juvenile



courts. This section would instead establish the three current courts and provide no mechanism for the establishment of new juvenile courts.

Section 2 would amend 43-2,119 to specifically provide the number of judges in each juvenile court district instead of providing the number of judges for districts within certain population ranges.

Section 3 would outright repeal 43-2,112 which provides for the process of establishing a new juvenile court by vote of the people.

Explanation of amendments:

AM2369 would replace the original bill.

The amendment would increase the population limits in 43-2,119. The upper limit of two judge counties would be 300,000 inhabitants and the lower limit for six judge counties would be 500,000 inhabitants. Counties with between 300,000 and 500,000 inhabitants would have four judges.

Justin Wayne, Chairperson

