

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB907

Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 06, 2014

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

LB907 is a public safety measure aimed at preventing “jam outs” or “max out” in the adult correctional system. The current system's fragmented process of treatment and corrections results in significant gaps in supervision and support of released offenders. As a group, max outs are higher-risk offenders than parolees and are far more likely to return to prison.

Key components of the bill include:

- A mandatory period of one to three years of supervised release determined by the judge at sentencing;
- An upgrade to Nebraska’s sentencing policy to require the judge to consider public safety, accountability and recidivism at the time of sentencing;
- The establishment of a specialized Re-entry Probation Officer – based on the federal level probation officers – to oversee re-entry into the community;
- Ongoing and comprehensive risk and needs assessments to ensure the identification of various risk factors and to reduce recidivism;
- The expansion of reporting centers to every judicial district;
- Enhanced reporting and accountability for the Office of Probation Administration and the Office of Parole Administration;
- The expansion of mental health services at the reporting centers through the voucher system;
- The Establishment of the Nebraska Center on Justice Research to advise members of the Legislature on policy, evidence-based programs, mental health needs and to conduct ongoing assessments on Nebraska’s justice system.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Brad Ashford