

# **One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB953**

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**Chairperson: Senator Mike Gloor**

**Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance**

**Date of Hearing: February 18, 2014**

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

To allow all Nebraskans covered by health insurance or Medicaid who choose to allow their electronic health records to be shared, LB 953 would require all health insurance payers to participate in a health information initiative. This would allow Nebraskans to benefit from improved management of care, improved outcomes and reduced medical costs. In the future this will provide the Nebraska Medicaid program additional information that can be used to manage the program.

To support the exchange of clinical information among physicians and other health care providers, the bill would create the Health Information Initiative Support Fund, made up of gifts, appropriations, and a \$1 million annual distribution from the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Distributive Fund. The Fund, administered by the Division of Public Health of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, would award grants to health information initiatives seeking funds to support the secure exchange of clinical information. LB 953 would require the Division of Public Health of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to develop an application requiring the applicant to demonstrate the need for funds.

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

**Senator Sara Howard**