



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 611

Chairperson: Senator Kermit A. Brashear
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 14, 2001

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

The purpose of LB 611 is to formulate a plan for a comprehensive review of the statewide system for the placement and treatment of legal offenders. The intent is to study the entire system from the time an offender enters the criminal justice system until they are eligible for a pardon. The bill, with proposed amendments, calls for an analysis that includes, but is not limited to, probation, sentencing, community-based programs, incarceration, parole, and pardons.

LB 611 creates a Correctional Improvement Committee, consisting of five members of the Legislature, that will coordinate the correctional improvement programs outlined in the bill including community-based treatment programs, comprehensive health care services, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, classification system, institutional segregation, offender work programs, educational programs, and enrichment activities, staffing issues and program planning. Each program shall consist of an independent and in-depth analysis of current and emerging correctional concerns.

In carrying out the comprehensive review of the system, the Committee shall consult and work with the VERA Institute, the Department of Correctional Services, the State Probation Administration, the Board of Parole, the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, county attorneys, defense attorneys including public defenders, and other state and local agencies and organizations seeking to provide community treatment services to legal offenders.

The purpose of LB 611 is to establish public policy and corresponding funding that reflects mutually accepted guiding principles regarding the efficient and cost-effective utilization of state funds devoted to criminal justice and/or correctional programs in the State of Nebraska.

The study shall be completed by July 1, 2003.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Dwite A. Pedersen

