



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 317**

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**Chairperson:** DiAnna R. Schimek  
**Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Date of Hearing:** February 27, 2003

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

This bill requires that the Attorney General be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Because the Attorney General is the State's top lawyer, he or she must not only be impartial and independent but also seem to be so.

He or she should not be beholden to any political party or other special interest group. When political affiliation (which has no bearing on legal competency and skill) must be declared as a condition to seeking the Office, and a candidate must campaign as a partisan, the public justifiably may suspect that his or her judgments, decisions and opinions will be unduly influenced by partisan, political considerations.

The independence and stature of the Office will grow if it is sought on a nonpartisan basis. Candidates of eminent qualification are more likely to enter the running.

Nothing positive flows from the Office being partisan, because partisanship breeds politicization -- which is the worst possible thing that can taint the Office of Attorney General.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Ernie Chambers**