



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 761

Hearing Date: February 23, 2005

Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Introducer(s): (Thompson, Bourne, Brown, Engel, Kruse, D. Pederson, Price, Synowiecki)

Title: Change Foster Care Review Board membership provisions

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senators Brown, Burling, Fischer, Mines, Pahls, Schimek
1	No	Senator Langemeier
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Wehrbein

Proponents:

Senator Nancy Thompson
 Jeanelle Kleveland

Representing:

Introducer
 Self

Opponents:

JoAnn LeBaron
 Jim Ganz, Jr.

 Gary Lacey
 Elizabeth Crnkovich
 Bill Mueller
 Tracey Latture

Representing:

State Foster Care Boards
 State Foster Care Review Board
 Nebraska State Bar Association
 Self
 Self
 Nebraska State Bar Association
 Victims of H.H.S.

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 761 provides that on or after January 1, 2006, the State Foster Care Review Board will be comprised of 15 members. The members include:

- Fourteen members appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature consisting of: three members of local foster care review boards, one practitioner of pediatric medicine, one practitioner of child clinical psychology, one social worker, one county attorney, one attorney
-

who as been a guardian ad litem, one representative of a statewide child advocacy group, one person who is or has been a foster parent, one child advocacy center coordinator, one court appointed special advocate; one probation officer, one educator, and

- The Director of Health and Human Services or his or her designee.

The terms of members will be three years, except the initial members of the board will have staggered terms. No person appointed by the Governor will serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Currently, the board consists of nine members. One member is an attorney. Two members are from each of the three congressional districts. Three members are appointed from a group consisting of all the chairpersons of the local boards.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

With the committee amendment, the Foster Care Review Board will consist of eleven members appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the Legislature.

The members will include: three members of local foster care review boards, a pediatrician, a child psychologist, a social worker, an attorney with experience as a guardian ad litem, a representative of a statewide child advocacy group, a child advocacy center coordinator, a director of a court appointed special advocate program, and a member of the public with a background in business or finance.

The members of the board will, to the extent possible, represent the three congressional districts equally.

Senator DiAnna R. Schimek, Chairperson