



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 117

Chairperson: Patrick J. Bourne
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 4, 2005

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

LB 117 seeks to combat Nebraska's methamphetamine problem by enhancing tools of prosecutors and by restricting access to products containing pseudoephedrine.

The legislation enhances the tools of prosecutors in battling methamphetamine trafficking and manufacturing. The legislation:

1. Adds methamphetamine to the list of exceptionally hazardous drugs.
2. Increases penalties for manufacturing and trafficking methamphetamine to equalize with corresponding penalties for cocaine.
3. Enhances penalties for possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

Further, LB 117 seeks to combat Nebraska's clandestine methamphetamine lab problem by restricting access to products containing pseudoephedrine, the key ingredient in the production of meth. Under the legislation:

1. Pseudoephedrine must be sold in a pharmacy by a pharmacist, pharmacist intern, or pharmacist tech;
2. Pseudoephedrine must be stored in a pharmacy behind the counter or in a place inaccessible to customers;
3. A person may not receive more than nine grams of pseudoephedrine in a thirty day period; and,
4. A person must show identification and sign a log book when purchasing pseudoephedrine.

The restrictions will not apply to liquid or liquid gel forms of pseudoephedrine.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Patrick Bourne