

# One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB62

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**Chairperson: Senator Mike Groene**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: January 17, 2017**

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

LB62 is intended to remove the prohibition on teachers wearing religious garb while employed by a public school district. This prohibition was passed by Nebraska in 1919, and passed in many other states during the same time period. Since then, every state, with the exception of Nebraska and Pennsylvania, has repealed its prohibition law.

Our Constitution requires the public schools to be religiously neutral, and prohibits that State from establishing religion. This bill does not change that. However, in our attempt to remain neutral, we have also trampled on teachers' First Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

LB62 entrusts school districts and the State to maintain religious neutrality, without flat out denying teachers their First Amendment rights.

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

Senator Jim Scheer