



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 246

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 15, 2007

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

LB 246 is an addition to the statutes setting forth the duties of county coroners. The bill is intended to facilitate the recovery of transplantable organs from decedents under the coroner's jurisdiction.

There is a severe shortage of available, transplantable organs in our nation. Almost 95,000 people nationwide are on the United Network for Organ Sharing's (UNOS) transplant waiting list. Every 12 minutes another person is added to the waiting list. On the other hand, in 2005, only 28,110 organ transplants occurred. An average of 18 people per day die while waiting for a life-saving organ to become available.

The Nebraska numbers mirror the national shortage. There are currently 504 people on the UNOS waiting list in Nebraska.

Many life-saving transplantable organs cannot be recovered from potential donors in a timeframe consistent with transplantation when the proximate cause or means of death places the donor under the jurisdiction of the coroner.

LB 246 will require coroners, or their physicians or designees, to complete a timely investigation to determine whether any transplantable organs or tissues contain evidence of the proximate cause or means of death. Additionally, coroners will be able to deny the recovery of any organs or tissues containing evidence of the proximate cause or means of death, thereby maintaining a balance between the availability of organs and tissues for transplantation and the orderly administration of justice.

Adoption of LB 246 will not have an adverse fiscal impact on the State of Nebraska.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Joel T. Johnson