



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 622

Chairperson: Ray Aguilar
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 1, 2007

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

LB 622 is designed to help public officials in their desire to serve the public by providing them with the education needed to better understand and comply with Nebraska's open meetings and public records statutes.

Violations of these statutes are rarely intentional. Rather, it is generally a lack of resources or a public body's reliance on insufficient or inaccurate legal advice that results in offenses. LB 622 is designed to help our public servants avoid the confusion associated with these statutes.

The bill would require public officials to take a training course with instruction on the legal requirements relative to public records requests and open meetings laws. The Department of Justice is charged with offering a free course and approving any other course offered.

Those completing the training will receive a certificate of completion which shall evidence their satisfaction of the requirement to serve on any public body.

There is no direct penalty for not completing the course. The objective is to educate public officials of their duties and responsibilities.

A public officer may designate a public records coordinator to complete the public records component of the training on his or her behalf, but a public officer must still complete the open meetings training.

The Attorney General may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the bill. The effective date of the bill is January 1, 2008.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Pete Pirsch