



**One Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008**  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 963**

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**Chairman:** Brad Ashford  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Date of Hearing:** February 27, 2008

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

Legislative Bill 963 was introduced on behalf of Governor Dave Heineman. It prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from providing federal, state, or local public benefits to individuals not lawfully present in the United States.

The prohibition does not apply to benefits exempted under federal law, emergency medical benefits, short-term emergency disaster relief, public health assistance for prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, and programs, services, or assistance necessary for the protection of life and safety.

LB 963 also requires all state agencies and political subdivisions to verify lawful status of individuals who apply for benefits. All individuals who apply for a benefit must execute an affidavit stating that he or she is either a United States citizen or an alien. If the applicant is a citizen, no further verification is needed. If, however, the applicant is an alien, the state agency or political subdivision must verify the alien's legal status through the United States Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program.

All state agencies who administer federal, state, or local benefits also are required to file a report with respect to compliance with the provisions of LB 963.

Finally, certain provisions of LB 263, enacted in 2006, are repealed by requiring an otherwise qualified student to be lawfully present in the United States to receive in-state tuition at a state post-secondary educational institution.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Mike Friend**  
**District 10**