

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB654**

---

**Chairperson: Senator Bill Avery**

**Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs**

**Date of Hearing: March 10, 2011**

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

Legislative Bill 654 requires that each candidate for President and for Vice-President who wishes to appear on the general election ballot in Nebraska, submit a sworn affidavit stating he or she meets the requirements of Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. It requires each candidate to provide documentation supporting the affidavit and makes the affidavit and documentation available for public inspection.

LB 654 requires the Nebraska Secretary of State to determine each candidate's eligibility based on the submitted affidavit and documentation and to certify and place on the general election ballot only those candidates who are eligible to hold such offices according to the requirements of the U.S. Constitution. The bill provides for an appeal process by which a candidate or registered voter can challenge the Secretary of State's decision. It also provides for the certification of successful write-in candidates.

LB 654 requires Nebraska's presidential electors to vote only for candidates who have been certified as eligible by the Secretary of State.

LB654 will instill confidence in the election process by assuring voters that candidates for the highest offices in the land have been properly vetted by government officials. No such process currently exists on the federal or state level.

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

**Senator Mark Christensen**