

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LR28

Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 02, 2011

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

LR28 encourages Nebraska's law enforcement agencies to participate in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Secure Communities strategy for removal of criminal aliens. The Secure Communities program focuses on immigration enforcement after arrest, during the booking process. The Secure Communities program utilizes enhanced fingerprint-based biometric technology to enable participating state and local law enforcement agencies to check the fingerprints of the arrestee against both FBI and Department of Homeland Security records to determine both criminal history and immigration status. When fingerprints match Homeland Security records, ICE is notified and promptly determines if immigration enforcement action is necessary. ICE's determination is based on removal of the most dangerous and violent criminal aliens, such as those charged with or convicted of heinous crimes like homicide, rape, robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, or threats to national security. In all cases, the determination of enforcement of federal immigration laws remains with ICE after due process is completed. The Secure Communities program does not authorize local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws.

The Secure Communities program has successfully removed thousands of criminal aliens since its inception. This program has been recognized by jurisdictions in a majority of states as a useful tool for immigration enforcement and has been completely implemented in nine states. Eleven Nebraska counties have implemented the Secure Communities program, including: Adams, Buffalo, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Lancaster, Madison, Merrick, and Sarpy.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tony Fulton