

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB603

Hearing Date: Friday March 01, 2013
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Chambers
One Liner: Include affirmation as an alternative when an oath is required

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

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| Aye: | 6 | Senators Avery, Karpisek, Murante, Price, Scheer, Wallman |
| Nay: | | |
| Absent: | 1 | Senator Lautenbaugh |
| Present Not Voting: | 1 | Senator Bloomfield |

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| Proponents: Senator Ernie Chambers Justin Evertson | Representing: Introducer Nebraska Secular Advocates |
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| Opponents: | Representing: |
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| Neutral: | Representing: |
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 603 includes the words "affirm or affirmation" in those sections of law where an oath is required.

These sections include oaths for: elected officials, persons who are paid from public funds for their service, members of a dock board, jurors, witnesses, deputy registrars, persons who acquire lists of registered voters, members of the learning community council, candidate filing forms, persons who rendered assistance in casting a ballot, challenging a person's right to vote, new and former residents receiving a ballot, registered voters without residence address who apply for a ballot, watchers who observe the counting of ballots, and members of the Land Reutilization Commission.

The bill also eliminates the phrase "so help me God" when it appears in various oaths.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment strikes the original sections of the bill and replaces them with the following provisions.

First, the amendment adds the words "or affirms" when the words "swear" or "sworn" appear in statute.

Secondly, when the words "So help me God" appear in statute regarding oaths, language is added to provide the oath will be taken "in substance".

Finally, unlike the original bill, the committee amendment does not add the words "or affirmation" every time the word "oath" appears. All of the sections in the original bill that add the words "or affirmation" after the word "oath" are eliminated with the committee amendment.

Bill Avery, Chairperson