

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB954

Hearing Date: Friday January 22, 2016
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Krist
One Liner: Change provisions relating to access to records for and investigations by the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Aye: | 8 | Senators Campbell, Chambers, Coash, Hadley, Hughes, Krist, Murante, Watermeier |
| Nay: | | |
| Absent: | 1 | Senator Larson |
| Present Not Voting: | | |

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Bob Krist
Julie Rogers
Corey Steel
Kim Hawekotte
Tom McBride

Representing:

Introducer
Inspector General of NE Child Welfare
Admin. Office of the Courts
Foster Care Review Office
NE Juvenile Justice Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB954 changes provisions regarding access to juvenile court records by the Inspector General of Child Welfare (IG).

Section 1.

Current law provides that in juvenile court cases the IG is to be provided access to confidential records for use in an investigation. LB954 would change this language to require the IG to submit a written request to the probation administrator for access to these records in each specific case. After receiving a juvenile court order, the records would be required to be provided to the IG within five days.

This section also makes a technical change by separating language that refers to the IG's access to records from language that refers to the Foster Care Review Office's access to records.

Section 2.

Language is added to the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act to require the IG to report any findings of possible misconduct by an employee of the juvenile services division to the probation administrator.

Section 3.

This section strikes a current reference to obtaining approval for confidential records from the Supreme Court since it is not the court of jurisdiction.

Section 4.

Language is added to say that the juvenile services division shall cooperate with the IG "as directed by the juvenile court or the Office of Probation Administration".

Section 5.

The words "as permitted by law" are added to harmonize the proposed changes in the bill to this section.

Section 6.

A new subsection is added so that it is clear that, as with other files, the IG shall have direct access to computer files only as directed by the juvenile court or the Office of Probation Administration.

Section 7.

Repeals original sections.

Bob Krist, Chairperson