Hearing Date: Tuesday January 17, 2017
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Scheer
One Liner: Eliminate prohibition on teachers wearing religious garb

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 5 Senators Ebke, Groene, Erdman, Linehan, Walz
Nay: 
Absent: 3 Senators Kolowski, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks
Present Not Voting: 

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents: Representing:
Senator Jim Scheer Introducer
Tom Venzor NE Catholic Conference
Martin Cannon Thomas More Society
Nate Grasz NE Family Alliance
Jeff Downing self
Jackson Moffett self
Christopher Spike Eickholt ACLU
Jestin Casas self

Opponents: Representing:
Neutral: Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:
This bill repeals 79-898-899 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

79-898 prohibits a teacher from wearing any dress or garb in school or while engaged in the performance of his or her duty that identifies the teacher as a member or adherent of any religious order, sect or denomination. Violation of this section results in being found guilty of a misdemeanor and can be fined up to $100, costs of prosecution or a jail term not exceeding 30 days.

79-899 states that a teacher found guilty under 79-898 shall be suspended for a year for a first offense and permanently disqualified from teaching at that school. Any school board member refusing to comply with this section is guilty of a Class V misdemeanor and can be fined up to $100 and the costs of prosecution.