

# One Hundred Fifth Legislature - Second Session - 2018

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB731

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**Chairperson: Senator Merv Riepe**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: January 18, 2018**

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

LB 731 provides language that will allow remote dispensing to occur in Nebraska. The purpose of the legislation is to provide access to pharmacies/pharmacists in rural and under-served areas of Nebraska. The remote pharmacy will be staffed by a certified pharmacy technician and owned by a supervising pharmacy (licensed and located in Nebraska - and no less than 10 driving miles from a pharmacy already in operation) to dispense medications. The Pharmacist in Charge (PIC) of the supervising pharmacy will also serve as the PIC for the remote dispensing pharmacy. A real-time audio/visual connection must be operational for dispensing to occur. The PIC can delegate tasks to a "virtual pharmacist", such as supervision, verification, DUR, patient counseling, etc., but the virtual pharmacist must be employed by the supervising pharmacy. When a prescription is being dispensed to a patient or caregiver, the pharmacist must attempt to counsel on all new prescriptions dispensed from a remote dispensing pharmacy, and must offer to counsel on all refills. The ratio of technicians to pharmacists remains 3 to 1. A separate license will be required for the remote dispensing pharmacy.

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

Senator Matt Williams