

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB8

Chairperson: Senator Laura Ebke

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: January 18, 2017

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

To ensure good youth outcomes that contribute to our communities' safety and well-being, we need practical juvenile justice policies and programs based on proven, age appropriate interventions. We know that adolescence is a time of rapid brain development, which affects youths' judgement, decision making, and behavior. Over twenty years of research tells us that youth have better outcomes when provided graduated responses to behaviors. Sending youth to detention for minor technical violations actually increases the likelihood of recidivism and compromises a youth's ability to access mental health care, education, job training, and other resources proven to keep them on the right track. It can disrupt vital family and community connections that serve as bulwarks against future antisocial behavior. LB 8 will align and harmonize state law with national best practice standards by ensuring the application of graduated responses in conjunction with supervision and treatment to promote accountability and encourage positive behavior, changes, and compliance with court-ordered conditions of probation.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bob Krist, District 10