

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB44

Hearing Date: Thursday March 07, 2019
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Chambers
One Liner: Eliminate the death penalty and change provisions relating to murder in the first degree

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Chambers, Lathrop, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Wayne
Nay:	2	Senators Brandt, Slama
Absent:	1	Senator DeBoer
Present Not Voting:		

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Ernie Chambers
Thomas Riley

Amy Miller
Matt Maly
Marion Miner
Judy King
Kellee Kucera Moreno

Opponents:

Dave Lopez
Rick Eberhardt
Terry Wagner

Neutral:

Robert Dunham

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association &
Douglas County Public Defender
ACLU of Nebraska
self
Nebraska Catholic Conference
self
self

Representing:

Attorney General's Office
self
Lancaster County Sheriff

Representing:

Death Penalty Information Center

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB44 would eliminate the Class I felony, which authorizes imposition of the death penalty. The bill would also eliminate or repeal sections and provisions of law related to imposition of the death penalty.

The overwhelming majority of changes in the bill involve deleting statutory references to the procedures involved in sentencing someone to death and carrying out the execution.

Section 29 provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that any death penalty sentences that have not yet been carried out would be converted to life imprisonment.

Steve Lathrop, Chairperson