

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB525

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 10, 2021
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Wishart
One Liner: Provide duties and requirements for transitional housing facilities and change powers of the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Brandt, DeBoer, Geist, Lathrop, McKinney, Morfeld, Pansing
Brooks, Slama
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Anna Wishart

Representing:
Introducer

Opponents:
Spike Eickholt

Representing:
ACLU of Nebraska

Neutral:
Doug Koebernick

Representing:
Inspector General for Corrections

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:
Jane Raybould
Sandra Washington
Jasmine Harris

Representing:
Lincoln City Council
Lincoln City Council
RISE

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 525 would provide certain requirements for transitional housing providers who receives state or county funds. The providers would be required to abide by all local zoning and occupancy standards; provide a contact phone number for a provider supervisor that is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The phone number is provided to every resident and is posted outside the transitional housing facility. The proposal also adds the Division of Parole Supervision to the jurisdiction

of the Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System.

Section by section

Section 1 Creates a new section regarding the transitional housing system and providers. The section provides definitions for:

Community Supervision
Community Supervision Agency
County Authority
Department
Provider
Resident
Transitional housing facility

Subsection (2) requires transitional housing providers who receive state or county funds to comply with all local zoning and occupancy standards as well as provide contracting agencies with a phone number of a manager or supervisor with the housing provider that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The phone number is also provided to residents of the housing facility as well as posted on the exterior of the facility.

The section also allows the county or state agencies to enter and inspect the facility at any time without notice.

Section 2 Amends Sec. 47-902 regarding the Office of Inspector General, to include the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 3 Amends Sec. 47-903 containing the definitions for the Inspector General Act, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 4 Amends Sec. 47-904, regarding the Inspector General, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 5 Amends Sec. 47-905, regarding the Inspector General, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 6 Amends Sec. 47-907, regarding the Inspector General, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 7 Amends Sec. 47-911, regarding the Inspector General, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision. The section also includes a new definition of facility for purposes of the section.

Section 8 Amends Sec. 47-914, regarding the Inspector General reports, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 9 Amends Sec. 47-915, regarding the Inspector General reports, to include references to the Department of Parole Supervision.

Section 10 Repeals original sections.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 602 makes three changes to LB 525. First, it amends the definition of "transitional housing" to exclude substance abuse centers and facilities with more than fifteen residents and operated by a non profit organization. Second, it amends the bill to strike the requirement facilities abide by all zoning standards (but retains occupancy standards). Third it allows supervision agencies to enter the facility with 24 hours notice to assure compliance with occupancy standards.

Steve Lathrop, Chairperson