

# One Hundred Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2024

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB1111

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**Chairperson: Senator Ben Hansen**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: February 14, 2024**

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

LB 1111 would require a local public health department, organized as a city-county health department, located in a county with a population greater than 200,000 people, to obtain approval from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), before implementing directed health measures (DHMs) pertaining only to a national or multistate pandemic. Doing this would bring more continuity of DHMs across the state for the citizens of Nebraska during larger pandemic situations.

Currently, only a local health department organized as a city-county health department located in a county with a population greater than 200,000 people can implement (or not implement) DHMs pertaining to pandemic situations, without the approval of DHHS.

This exception has caused divisions among local communities located in such a jurisdiction and inconsistencies among Nebraska counties. Many people believe that this unique power allowed overreaching local DHM to encroach upon the personal liberty of certain Nebraska citizens and at little value to public health.

In addition, the bill requires the board of health of such district to have a public hearing, with a 10-day notice, before enacting rules and regulations.

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

**Senator Robert Clements**