

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1181

Hearing Date: Friday February 06, 2026
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Bosn
One Liner: Change provisions relating to the rights of victims of certain crimes

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Bosn, DeBoer, Hallstrom, Holdcroft, McKinney, Rountree,
Storer, Storm

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Carolyn Bosn
Macy Meyer
George Welch
Melanie Kirk

Gail Curry

Opponents:

Spike Eickholt

Neutral:

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic
Violence
Self

Representing:

Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1181 changes provisions of law relating to to victim's rights. This bill expands several rights under the Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparations Act by establishing broader language for "homicide victim" to include extended family and others close to the victim. Under this bill, victims will be notified of a perpetrator's request for a bond modification in domestic violence cases. Additionally, the bill adopts language to ensure victims have the right to read written impact statements aloud at a sentencing hearing.

Section by Section Summary:

Section 1: This section amends section 23-1201 by harmonizing the definitions of "plea agreement" and



"victim" to have the same meanings as in section 81-1848.

Section 2 -5: Harmonizing changes in sections 25-21,279, 29-2261, 29-4705, and 81-1844.01 relating to the definitions of "victim" or "plea agreement."

Section 6: This section amends section 81-1848 to provide definitions for "intimate partner", "plea agreement", and "victim." Under this section, victim includes a person who has had a personal confrontation with an offender as a result of homicide, first degree assault, second degree assault, third degree assault, first degree false imprisonment, first degree sexual assault, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree, domestic assault in the first second or third degree, or robbery.

The definition of victim also includes a person who has suffered serious bodily injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident when the driver was charged with driving under the influence. In the case of a homicide, the definition of victim includes the nearest surviving relative of the deceased, but does not include the alleged perpetrator of the homicide. This definition also includes any surviving immediate family member of the homicide victim as determined on a case-by-case basis who may suffer severe emotional harm as a result of the victim's death. This section also identifies who qualifies as a victim in cases of violations of the Child Sexual Abuse Material Prevention Act, theft, as well as cases of sexual assault of a child. Similarly, a victim does not include the alleged perpetrator of the crime. Finally, this section provides that in addition to those listed in this section, a victim shall have the following rights:

1. To review publicly available criminal justice information about individuals, including arrest warrants, arrests, detentions, indictments, and other formal charges;
2. To be heard by the court, either through a written statement or oral comment, during any bond modification proceeding;
3. To be consulted regarding a plea agreement;
4. To be present throughout the entire trial to the extent that the court may exclude the victim if the court finds that the victim's presence would compromise the defendant's right to a fair trial; and
5. To read or appoint a representative to read his or her written impact statement aloud at the sentencing. The court may impose reasonable limitations.

Consistent with this section and prior to entering into a plea agreement, a prosecuting attorney shall consult with or make a good faith effort to consult with the victim regarding the content of and reasons for the please agreement.

Section 7-10: Harmonizing changes in sections 81-1848.01, 81-1848.02, 81-1850, and 83-109 to change references from section 29-119 to section 81-1848 regarding the definition of "victim".

Section 11: Repealer

Section 12: Outright reals sections 29-119 and 29-120 defining "please agreement" and "victim"

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2066 amends section 81-1848 to:

(1) change the definition of "victim" in cases of homicide to not include, beyond relatives, spouses, and partners, any other survivor of the victim who, as determined on a case by case basis, may suffer severe emotional harm as the result of the victim's death, and then correspondingly change in the list of victim's rights the provisions regarding the right of the victim to read aloud the written impact statement at the sentencing proceeding so as to include in the definition of victim any survivor who, as determined on a case by case basis, suffered severe emotional harm as a result of the victim's death; and



(2) change provisions regarding the right of a victim to be heard, orally or in writing, in any bond modification proceeding to only being able to submit a written statement in a case involving abuse as defined in section 42-903.

Carolyn Bosn, Chairperson

