

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1237

Hearing Date: Monday February 02, 2026
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Executive Board
One Liner: Prohibit bringing weapons or prohibited substances into the State Capitol

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 9 Senators Hansen, Arch, Ballard, Bostar, Dorn, Fredrickson, Ibach,
Jacobson, McKinney

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Ben Hansen
Ron Cunningham
Jessie McGarath
Cora Jones

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Self
Self
New Voices

Opponents:

Tom Brewer
Bob Ripley
Joe Goebel
Aaron Wallin
Nathan Griffith
Craig Ely
Patricia Harrold
Aaron Loos

Representing:

Self
Self / Capitol Preservation
Self
Self
Nebraska Firearms Owners Association
Self
Women for Gun Rights
Self

Neutral:

Bill Hawkins
Brandon Metzler

Representing:

Self
Self

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1237 prohibits individuals from knowingly entering or attempting to enter the Nebraska State Capitol while in possession of a weapon or prohibited substance. The bill defines key terms, establishes limited exceptions, and



creates a Class III misdemeanor penalty for violations. LB 1237 also assigns the Nebraska State Patrol responsibility for implementing security procedures, including weapons detection, to enforce the prohibition.

Section by Section Summary

Sec. 1: Amends §28-101 to include the new Capitol weapons prohibition within the Nebraska Criminal Code.

Sec. 2: Defines “weapon” and “prohibited substance” for purposes of the act.

Prohibits knowingly entering or attempting to enter the State Capitol while in possession of a weapon or prohibited substance.

Provides exceptions for:

- Persons with prior approval from the Nebraska State Patrol;
- Law enforcement officers acting in the course of official duties;
- Qualified active or retired law enforcement officers carrying concealed handguns under federal law.
- Establishes a violation as a Class III misdemeanor.

Sec. 3: Amends §81-1108.15 to clarify that the Nebraska State Patrol is responsible for security at the State Capitol.

Requires the Nebraska State Patrol, after consultation with specified state officials, to implement procedures by January 1, 2027, to detect and prevent weapons and prohibited substances from being brought into the Capitol.

Sec. 4: Repeals the original sections.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2028

Provides a fourth exception under Sec. 2 of LB 1237 to allow for:

. . . the carrying of a concealed handgun by an individual holding a current and valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

Ben Hansen, Chairperson

