

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB203

Hearing Date: Friday February 07, 2025
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Kauth
One Liner: Change powers and duties of health directors in certain local public health departments

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Hardin, Ballard, Hansen, Meyer, Riepe
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	2	Senators Fredrickson, Quick

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kathleen Kauth
Allie Bush
Jeanne Greiser
Roy M. Zach
Dianne Plock

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraskans Against Government Overreach
Nebraskans for Founders Values NFFV
self
self

Opponents:

Kerry Kernen
Tracy Aksamit
Julie Keown
Daniel Smith

Representing:

Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department
self
Nebraska Nurses Association
self

Neutral:

Beth Bazyn Ferrell
Eric Gerrard

Representing:

NACO NE Association of County Officials
Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 203 changes the powers and duties of local health directors. Provisions are changed relating to the approval process of a directed health measure. Definitions are provided for community-wide directed health measure and epidemiological link.

Sec. 1: Community-wide directed health measure is defined as a public health action or intervention by a local public health department involving the total population of the jurisdiction of such local public health department when there



are no known epidemiological links.

Epidemiological link is defined as an instance in which an individual may have held exposure to a communicable disease and exposure through known modes of transmission is plausible. An exposure may be considered epidemiologically linked if at least one entity in the chain of transmission is a contact or a confirmed, probable, or suspect case.

Sec. 2: The city/county health director is required to receive written approval by a majority of the publicly elected representatives of the county board and city council who are appointed to the city/county health department for community-wide directed health measures prior to issuance of such measures. Such directed health measures shall be submitted to the city/county board of health for ratification at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The requirement to adopt measures to arrest the progress of the disease is removed.

Sec. 3: The health director of a county, district, or city-county health department shall have the power and duty to issue and enforce community-wide directed health measures. The health director is required to receive approval of such directed health measures in writing prior to issuance by a majority of the publicly elected representatives of the county board or, in the case of a city/county health department, written approval by a majority of the publicly elected representatives of the city council, and such directed health measures shall be submitted to the board of health for ratification at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board.

Sec. 4: Repealer

Explanation of amendments:

AM 611 inserts a new section. A community-wide directed health measure shall be subject to approval of the local board of health, shall expire 7 days after the date of issuance, and may be reauthorized subject to approval of the local board of health.

Brian Hardin, Chairperson

