

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB213

Hearing Date: Monday February 24, 2025
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Holdcroft
One Liner: Require the State Board of Education to adopt academic content standards on human embryology under the science education standards

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 5 Senators Murman, Sanders, Hughes, Lonowski, Meyer
Nay: 3 Senators Conrad, Hunt, Juarez
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rick Holdcroft
Marion Miner
Sandy Danek
Elizabeth Nunnally

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Nebraska Right to Life
Nebraska Family Alliance

Opponents:

Christian Olson
Dr. Elizabeth Weedin
Luke Schroer
Joy Kathurima
Dr. Charles Riedesel

Representing:

Self
Self
Self
ACLU of Nebraska
Beatrice Public Schools; NE Assn. of School Boards;
Schools Taking Action for NE Children
Planned Parenthood North Central States
Self

Andi Curry Grubb
Spencer Rice

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 213 amends section 79-760.01 of the Quality Education Accountability Act to require the State Board of Education to adopt measurable academic content standards for human embryology as part of science education standards by March 1, 2026. These standards must be implemented in elementary, middle school, and high school by the start of the 2026-27 school year. The curriculum for human embryology must include accurate instruction on human



development, focusing on the biological science of human embryology and covering the Carnegie Stages of Human Embryonic Development. It will also feature high-definition, four-dimensional quality (4D) visual recordings of the development of vital organs like the brain, heart, sex organs, and others. Additionally, parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers will have the option to opt their students out of the human embryology course. The bill also adds the emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 645 amends LB 213 to make use of the Carnegie Stages of Human Embryonic Development in the human embryology curriculum an option rather than a requirement.

Additionally, AM 645 removes the requirement for high-definition visual recordings to be in at least four-dimensional quality (4D) for showing the development of the brain, heart, and sex organs, and any other vital organs during fetal development. The amendment now only requires that the recordings be in high definition.

Furthermore, AM 645 strikes the emergency clause.

Dave Murman, Chairperson

