

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB320

Hearing Date: Monday February 03, 2025
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Sanders
One Liner: Require that hotels and similar public lodging establishments place posters relating to human trafficking in such establishments and provide for training on human trafficking to employees of such establishments

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Kauth, Hansen, Ibach, McKeon, Raybould, Sorrentino
Nay: 1 Senator McKinney
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rita Sanders
Jason Hoehne
Rich Otto

George Welch

Representing:

Opening Presenter
H & H Hospitality
Nebraska Hospitality Association, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Attorney General

Opponents:

Joey Adler

Representing:

Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 320 would amend Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1430 and 81-1431. It would expand anti-human trafficking efforts in hotels and other similar public lodging establishments.

A significant amount of human trafficking occurs at hotels and other similar public lodging establishments. While most of it is sex trafficking, people that are being labor trafficked are also often kept at hotels, either for a night as they are being moved across the country, or for days at a time as they are being forced to work in the hotel's local area. A task force within the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice was created by 81-1430 to investigate and study human trafficking. Currently, the task force, as part of its efforts to combat human trafficking, places posters with phone numbers a person may call for assistance with human trafficking at rest stops, casinos,



and strip clubs. This bill would have the Department of Labor and the task force work together to put up these posters at hotels and other similar public lodging establishments.

Additionally, as so much human trafficking occurs at hotels and other similar public lodging establishments, specialized training in recognizing, detecting, and reporting human trafficking is needed for their employees. The Department of Labor is to work with hotels and other similar public lodging establishments to establish training and prevention policies for their employees, to include contact information with local law enforcement and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline.

If a hotel or other similar public lodging establishment implements such training and policies, then owners, operators, and employees of the establishment will not be liable for human trafficking committed by a third party at their establishment. Liability for human trafficking does remain if the owners, operator, or employees knowingly assist in the human trafficking.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 687 - Instead of the task force being involved, the Attorney General, the Department of Labor, and hotels may work together to approve human trafficking training. The training may be provided to employees but it does no longer has to be within the first one hundred eighty days of employment. The hotline has been switched from the National hotline to the Nebraska version.

Kathleen Kauth, Chairperson

