

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB556

Chairperson: Senator Carolyn Bosn

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 13, 2025

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB556 enhances Nebraska's juvenile justice system by:

- Lowering the minimum age for charging juveniles as adults for serious felonies (Class I, IA, IB, IC, ID, II, and IIA) from 14 to 12 (amending § 29-1816).
- Defining "detention" in the Nebraska Juvenile Code as placement in a secure facility, clarifying that alternatives like ankle monitors are not detention (amending § 43-245).
- Requiring a judge to determine detention for felony arrests after consulting with a probation officer, rather than leaving the decision solely to probation officers (amending § 43-250).
- Expanding criteria for detention to include juveniles who pose a safety risk, have a record of failing to appear, or have a history of fleeing or violent offenses (amending §§ 43-251.01, 43-253).
- Mandating court hearings for juvenile placements, removing automatic waivers unless all parties agree (amending § 43-253).
- Lowering the minimum age for detention from 13 to 11 (amending § 43-251.01).

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Merv Riepe