



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 107

Hearing Date: February 15, 2007

Committee On: Judiciary

Introducer(s): (Pedersen)

Title: Create a deputy public counsel for institutions and facilities operated by the Department of Health and Human Services

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- X Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 7 | Yes | Sen. Ashford, Sen. Lathrop, Sen. Chambers, Sen. McDonald,
Sen. McGill, Sen. Pedersen, Sen. Schimek |
| | No | |
| 1 | Present, not voting | Sen. Pirsch |
| | Absent | |
-

Proponents:

Sen Pedersen
Marshall Lux
James Shuey
Brad Meurrens

Representing:

Ombudsman's Office
Disabled American Veterans
Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc.

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes: Legislative Bill 107 proposes to require the Public Counsel, commonly referred to as the state ombudsman, to appoint a deputy public counsel for institutions. The authority of the deputy public counsel for institutions covers mental health and veterans institutions operated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and complaints relating to the rights of individuals placed within those institutions. Current law already authorizes the Public Counsel to hire such assistants and employees as are necessary to

carry out the duties of the office and the powers of the public counsel currently include investigation of institutions operated by HHS.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Brad Ashford, Chairperson