



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 445**

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**Hearing Date:** February 23, 2007  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducer(s):** (Stuthman)

**Title:** Provide qualifications and certification requirements for certain persons under the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senator(s): Johnson, Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Gay, Pankonin, Stuthman
	No	
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Senator Stuthman  
Carlos Servan

Pearl Van Zandt

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and National Blind Professionals Association  
Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 445 adds provisions to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act. The bill defines “certified vocational rehabilitation counselor for the blind,” and “vocational rehabilitation counseling for the blind.”

The bill provides duties for certified vocational rehabilitation counselors for the blind (sec. 3).

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The bill provides for certification of vocational rehabilitation counselors for the blind by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (commission). The bill provides that a certified vocational rehabilitation counselor for the blind is not a mental health practitioner. The bill provides qualifications for certified vocational rehabilitation counselors for the blind. The bill requires each certified vocational rehabilitation counselor for the blind to complete continuing competency requirements as established by the commission under the approval of the commission's executive director.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendment (AM 615) makes technical changes to the bill and includes a "grandfather provision" for the certification of persons providing vocational rehabilitation counseling for the blind prior to the effective date of the bill.

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**Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson**