



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Committee Statement
LB 535

Hearing Date: March 8, 2007

Committee On: Judiciary

Introducer(s): (Schimek)

Title: Create the juvenile legal services division of the Commission on Public Advocacy and eliminate a council

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

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

Proponents:

Sen. Schimek
 Roberta Stick
 Dennis Keefe
 Amy Prenda
 Sarah Helvey

Representing:

Introducer
 Citizen
 Public Defender Lancaster County
 Nebraska CASA Assoc.
 Nebraska Appleseed

Opponents:

Chris Costantakos
 Kim Hawekotte
 Gary Lacey
 Thomas Riley
 Jackie Madar Campbell
 James Mowbray

Representing:

Citizen
 Citizen
 County Attorney Lancaster County
 Public Defender Douglas County
 Citizen
 Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes: Under current law, the counties administer and fund the system that provides representation for children and parents involved in the juvenile justice system.

Legislative Bill 535 proposes a shift in the administration and funding of juvenile justice services from county to state control. Under the bill, the state would administer and fund, through the Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy, the provision of representation to minors and parents in abuse/neglect cases, status offense cases, and law violation cases. The state would also determine lawyer eligibility to serve as an appointed juvenile attorney or a GAL.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Brad Ashford, Chairperson