



**Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008  
Committee Statement  
LB 679**

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**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2007  
**Committee On:** Nebraska Retirement Systems

**Introducer(s):** (Avery)  
**Title:** Eliminate the cap on retirement contributions for University of Nebraska employees

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

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

6	Yes	Senators Erdman, Heidemann, Louden, Karpisek, Synowiecki, White
	No	
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

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**Proponents:**  
Senator Bill Avery  
Miles Bryant  
James Shaw  
Ron Withem

**Representing:**  
Introducer  
University of Nebraska System  
Faculty Senate, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
University of Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 679 would remove the current restriction placed on the amount that the University of Nebraska can contribute to its employees' retirement funds. The current contribution is 8 percent of an employee's current salary, which is the maximum allowed under current statute. LB 679 would not increase the University's contribution percentage, but merely would provide the University of Nebraska Board of Regents with discretionary authority to increase that percentage should the Board decide to do so.

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Given that the current contribution level is already at the maximum of 8 percent allowed by law, it is likely that the Board may reach a point in the future when it may determine that it is necessary to increase the contribution percentage, but would be barred from doing so without authority provided by LB 679. The issue of retirement benefits is an important element in faculty and staff recruitment. University of Nebraska officials need this authority in their efforts to hire and retain quality employees. LB 679 is intended to address this issue before it becomes a problem by removing an unnecessary obstacle to the Board's ability to adjust the retirement plan of University of Nebraska employees.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator John Synowiecki, Chairperson**