



**Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 68**

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**Hearing Date:** February 23, 2007  
**Committee On:** Judiciary

**Introducer(s):** (Hudkins)  
**Title:** Create the Office of Guardian ad Litem Services

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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:**

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

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**Proponents:**

Sen. Hudkins  
 Jim Ruby

**Representing:**

Introducer  
 Citizen

**Opponents:**

Chris Costantakos  
 Lynette Boyle  
 Thomas Incontro  
 Jeff Wagner

**Representing:**

Nebraska State Bar Association  
 Citizen  
 Citizen  
 Citizen

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

Legislative Bill 68 proposes the creation the Office of Guardian ad Litem Services (Office) to be housed in the office of the State Court Administrator. The Office will establish and administer local guardian ad litem programs in judicial districts across the state. The local programs will be state funded and will consist of volunteer guardians ad litem charged with protecting and promoting the best interests of abused, neglected and/or dependant juveniles involved in judicial proceedings.

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The bill also provides for a Guardian ad Litem Advisory Committee composed of at least 5 members to be appointed by the Office for the purpose of advising the Office in matters related to the local programs.

Under LB 68, a county court or separate juvenile court judicial district may apply for a waiver to avoid setting up a local program if there is an adequate alternative plan to provide guardian ad litem services in the district. Unless a waiver is granted, the local programs must be established no later than June 30, 2009.

This bill is the subject of Legislative Resolution 97, which was offered by Senator Hudkins and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Brad Ashford, Chairperson**