

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -
2008**

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB809

Hearing Date: January 25, 2008

Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Synowiecki)

Title: Change provisions relating to metabolic screening

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Placed on General File with Amendments

Vote Results:

6 Yes	Senators Erdman, Gay, Hansen, Johnson, Pankonin, Stuthman
0 No	
0 Absent	
1 Present, not voting	Senators Howard

Proponents:

Senator Synowiecki
Jeremiah Anaya
John Anaya
Dave Bydalek
Al Riskowski
Jefferson Downing
Amy Miller

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self
Family First
Nebraska Family Council
Self
ACLU Nebraska

Richard F. Duncan
Ray Spiering
Mary Anaya

Self
Self
Self

Opponents:

Jeanne Egger
Janice Soderquist
Patricia K. Crawford
Khalid Awad M.D.

Representing:

Self
Children's Health Care as a Legal Duty
Self
Nebraska Medical Association

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or change:

LB 809 relates to the mandatory screening of infants born in the State of Nebraska for certain metabolic diseases. The bill amends section 71-519 and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to grant an exemption from such requirement upon the filing of a written objection with the department by the child's parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian's sincerely held religious beliefs.

Persons responsible for causing the tests to be performed must inform the parent or guardian that they may refuse to have the tests performed upon the filing of such objection. If the parent or guardian of the child objects to testing the child for inheritable and congenital disorders, the objection must be made in writing on a form signed by the parent or guardian, and the form must be made part of the child's medical record.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee (AM 1981) redrafts substantive portions of the bill to provide for the following exemption from mandatory newborn screening: "a parent or legal guardian of an infant subject to [the mandatory screening requirement] may request and shall be granted an exemption from such requirements on behalf of the infant based on the sincerely held religious beliefs of such parent or legal guardian. Such request shall be made in writing on a form developed by the department and filed with the attending physician or person registering the infant's birth under [section 71-519(2)]. Such request shall be reported to the department and shall be made part of the infant's medical record. The department shall make forms available to request and report such exemption. Such forms shall include a warning and relevant information relating to the risks associated with the failure to receive the screening."

Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson