

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2008

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LR284

Hearing Date: April 07, 2008

Committee On: Judiciary

Introducer(s): (Pedersen)

Title: Recognize slavery in the history of Nebraska

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Reported to the Legislature for further consideration, with amendments

Vote Results:

6 Yes	Senators Ashford, Lathrop, McDonald, McGill, Pedersen, Schimek
0 No	
1 Absent	Senators Chambers
1 Present, not voting	Senators Pirsch

Proponents:

Sen. Pedersen
Robert Guessel
Lela Shanks
Leola Bullock
Helen Seward

Demetria Guidry
Jane Erdenberger
Jean Krejci
John Krejci
Sharon Glenn
Gregg Johnson
Robert Vestal

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self
Self
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Delta Epsilon
Omega Chapter
Self
Self
Self
Nebraskans for Peace
Self
Self
Self

Opponents:
Anthony Metz

Representing:
Self

Neutral:
Debra Haveman
Bill Hayes

Representing:
Mayhew Cabin
Mayhew Cabin

Summary of purpose and/or change:

LR 284 provides for the Nebraska Legislature to express profound regret for the state's role in slavery, particularly during the states territorial period to statehood, and issues an apology for the wrongs inflicted by slavery and its effects in Nebraska and the United States.

The apology contained in LR 284, is issued to those who were enslaved and the descendants of those slaves, who were deprived of life, human dignity, and the constitutional protections accorded all citizens of the United States.

LR 284 also expresses the Legislature's intent that all citizens teach their children about the history of slavery and its effects, to ensure that these tragedies will not be forgotten or repeated.

Finally, the Legislature declares its intent that LR 284 shall not be used in, or be the basis of, any litigation.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Committee Amendment 2750 makes changes to the resolved clauses at the end of the resolution. In section 1 of the resolved clauses, the apology language is removed and replaced with language condemning racial discrimination in any form toward African Americans. The amendment strikes section 2 of the resolved clauses. Finally, the amendment adds language to the last resolved clause indicating that the resolution shall not be deemed a waiver of the state's sovereign immunity.

Senator Brad Ashford, Chairperson