



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 142

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 15, 2007

The following constitute the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 142 is intended to bring Nebraska's intimidation laws into the 21st Century by adding computers and electronic communication devices to the list of means and mechanisms with which one can commit a punishable harassment or intimidation offense.

Currently, there are no provisions in Nebraska law for "cyber" intimidation offenses. This legislation would close a major loophole in our criminal statutes.

The bill would increase the penalties for all crimes of intimidation, raising the offense from a class III misdemeanor (with a penalty of up to three months in jail and a five hundred dollar fine), to a class I misdemeanor (with a penalty of up to one year in jail and a one thousand dollar fine).

And most importantly, the bill makes it a Class IV felony for a person eighteen years of age or older to send sexually explicit material to a child under sixteen (with a penalty of up to five years in prison and up to a ten thousand dollar fine).

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Mike Friend