



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 257

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 23, 2007

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

LB 257 proposes the Public Guardianship Act.

It would adopt legislative findings that the present system of obtaining a guardian for a person in need is inadequate and that there is a need to provide conservators when there is no one suitable or available.

It is the intent of LB 257 to establish the Office of Public Guardian and to provide a public guardian only to those persons whose needs cannot be met with less intrusive means of intervention. This office would be in the judicial branch and responsible to the Supreme Court. It would provide qualified persons to be appointed as guardians or conservators when no other person can be identified or is qualified to serve as guardian or conservator for a needy individual. The legislation also calls for the creation of a Deputy Public Guardian.

LB 257 would also create an 11-member Advisory Council on Public Guardianship, whose members would be appointed by the Chief Justice. Membership would include representatives of the State Bar, the County Court Judges Association, social workers, mental health professionals, developmental disability professionals, and other interested individuals.

Nebraska is one of only three states that do not offer some official Public Guardian function.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Steve Lathrop