



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 48**

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**Chairperson:** Joel Johnson  
**Committee:** Health and Human Services  
**Date of Hearing:** February 1, 2007

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

LB 48 is a very narrow re-definition of the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists. A licensed nurse anesthetist is an individual who, after receiving an education and licensure as a registered nurse, attends an additional two years of hospital-based education in anesthesia. They are the nurse equivalent of a physician anesthesiologist. There are some 200 licensed nurse anesthetists in Nebraska, and they are the sole providers of anesthesia in a majority of our state's hospitals – especially those in rural areas. They have been allowed to practice without physician supervision in Nebraska since 1992.

Fluoroscopy essentially is an x-ray in real time, capturing motion as it occurs on a display tube, somewhat akin to a television screen. LB 48 would allow certified registered nurse anesthetists to utilize the fluoroscope display to assist them in the placement of lines to provide patient medication. The equipment would be operated by a licensed radiologic technician, a “medical radiographer” in Nebraska law, and its utilization allows the nurse anesthetists to insert the needle with a greater degree of accuracy and patient safety and comfort.

The insertion of needles in the placement of lines has been a legitimate component of nurse anesthetist practice virtually from the beginning of the profession. LB 48 would allow nurse anesthetists to undertake this procedure more accurately and safely than is possible without this technology.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator M.L. Dierks**