



Hundred Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 50**

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**Chairperson:** Ray Aguilar  
**Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Date of Hearing:** January 18, 2007

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

The Nebraska Supreme Court has adopted Rule 13 of the Rules Relating to Official Court Reporters states "Provided, however, that an official reporter shall take vacation at the same time as or at the discretion of the appointing judge. If the official reporter is permitted to take vacation at a time other than when the appointing judge takes vacation and the services of a substitute reporter are required by such judge, it shall be the obligation of the official reporter taking vacation to arrange for the services of a substitute reporter at no cost to the State, unless otherwise determined by the State Court Administrator."

This rule has been used to require court reporters who are state employees to use their own funds to pay for a substitute reporter when they go on vacation at a time when the court requires a court reporter to be present. This policy is contrary to all other rules and regulations or policy and procedures of any other department of any branch of government. The rule is unfair and is poor public policy.

Since the Court was unwilling to simply remove the requirement from their rules this bill is introduced to strike the rule and require the state to pay for any costs associated with the absence of a court reporter due to authorized vacation leave.

The Court still retains the authority to determine when vacation leave may be taken so that they can control any additional costs associated with paying for the services of a substitute reporter. The bill also will allow the rule to continue to require the reporter for arrange for a substitute...

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Carol Hudkins**