



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 535**

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**Chairperson:** Brad Ashford  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Date of Hearing:** March 8, 2007

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

LB 535 seeks to create a division of juvenile legal services within the Commission of Public Advocacy to provide state level funding and administration of the attorneys and guardians ad litem representing children, youth, and parents in juvenile court proceedings.

LB 535 amends the current statutory framework for the Commission on Public Advocacy to expand the Commission's responsibilities to include the administration of legal services to children, youth, and parents in juvenile court, to include a commitment to juvenile legal services as a requirement for Commission membership, and to transfer the funding of juvenile legal services from the counties to the state.

LB 535 is intended to assist the courts in ensuring that trained, competent attorneys are available for appointment. Further, the intent of LB 535 is to relieve the counties of the burden of funding legal representation for children, youth, and parents in juvenile court proceedings. This bill fosters a greater partnership between the state and the counties in providing indigent legal services and will result in real property tax relief.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator DiAnna R. Schimek**