



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 679

Chairperson: John Synowiecki
Committee: Nebraska Retirement Systems
Date of Hearing: February 27, 2007

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

LB 679 would remove the current restriction placed on the amount that the University of Nebraska can contribute to its employees' retirement funds. The current contribution is 8 percent of an employee's current salary, which is the maximum allowed under current statute. LB 679 would not increase the University's contribution percentage, but merely would provide the University of Nebraska Board of Regents with discretionary authority to increase that percentage should the Board decide it do so.

Given that the current contribution level is already at the maximum of 8 percent allowed by law, it is likely that the Board may reach a point in the future when it may determine that it is necessary to increase the contribution percentage, but would be barred from doing so without authority provided by LB 679. The issue of retirement benefits is an important element in faculty and staff recruitment. University of Nebraska officials need this authority in their efforts to hire and retain quality employees. LB 679 is intended to address this issue before it becomes a problem by removing an unnecessary obstacle to the Board's ability to adjust the retirement plan of University of Nebraska employees.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Bill Avery