

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB122**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday March 18, 2009  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Coash  
**One Liner:** Change terminology for the central register of child protection cases

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Ashford, Christensen, Coash, Council, Lathrop, McGill, Rogert
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	1	Senator Lautenbaugh

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**Proponents:**

Sen. Colby Coash  
Todd Landry  
Linda Cox  
Kathy Bigsby Moore

**Representing:**

Introducer  
DHHS  
Foster Care Review Board  
Voices for Children in Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 122 would amend sections 28-718 and 28-720 to clarify classifications on the central register of child protection cases. Currently, there are three classifications for cases that get entered into the registry including "court substantiated," "court pending" and "inconclusive." The "court substantiated" classification indicates a court's judgment of guilt. The "court pending" classification indicates the case has been filed and has not been decided by the court. The "inconclusive" classification indicates an investigation has been made into the report of abuse or neglect and the Department of Health and Human Services has determined that the report was made by a preponderance of the evidence. The bill reflects the concern that "inconclusive" is misleading as a label for a determination by the department that child abuse or neglect was more likely to have occurred than not. The bill would replace the classification of "inconclusive" with "agency substantiated." The bill also gives the department the authority to change current records to enact this change.

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Brad Ashford, Chairperson