

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB517

Hearing Date: Wednesday March 04, 2009
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Hansen
One Liner: Change provisions relating to family reunification and termination of parental rights

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Ashford, Christensen, Coash, Council, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, McGill, Rogert
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Sen. Tom Hansen
Melissa Black
John Freudenberg
Alicia Henderson
Carol Stitt
Mary Jane Demmers

Representing:

Introducer
self
Attorney General
Lancaster County Attorney
Foster Care Review Board
self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 517 amends sections 43-283.01 and 43-292 to provide an additional basis for not making reasonable efforts to reunify the family and for termination of parental rights. The bill provides that the court shall not be required to make reasonable efforts to reunify the family when one parent of a juvenile has been convicted of felony sexual assault of the other parent or a comparable crime in another state. Additionally, the court may terminate all parental rights between the parent and the juvenile if one parent has been convicted of felony sexual assault of the other parent or a comparable crime in another state.

Explanation of amendments:

Committee Amendment AM662 adds language to sections 43-283.01 and 43-292 to protect all children of a parent who harms a child. Under the amendment, reunification efforts would not be required in cases where the parent of the juvenile being removed from the home has subjected the juvenile or another minor child to aggravated circumstances, including, but not limited to, abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse. Further under the amendment, grounds for termination of parental rights exist where the parent of the juvenile has subjected the juvenile or another minor child to aggravated circumstances, including, but not limited to, abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual

abuse.

Brad Ashford, Chairperson