

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB537**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday March 02, 2009  
**Committee On:** Business and Labor  
**Introducer:** Giese  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to the hours of duty of firefighters

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

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 6 Senators Carlson, Council, Lathrop, McGill, Wallman, White  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:** 1 Senator Schilz  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**  
Senator Giese  
Gary Krumland  
David Engler  
Lance Hedquist

**Representing:**  
Introducer  
League of Nebraska Municipalities  
Nebraska Professional Firefighters  
City Administrator, South Sioux City

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

Amends Neb. Rev. Stat. § 35-302 concerning work hours for firefighters. LB 537 would give cities of the first and second class the same work restriction requirements as cities of the metropolitan or primary class.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 882 replaces the bill and accomplishes the intended purpose of LB 537 which is to allow smaller communities with primarily volunteer departments to enter into agreements allowing longer work hour weeks. Communities will be able to supplement their volunteer departments with a few full-time firefighters to work the day shifts while the volunteers are working their regular full-time jobs. Limiting the work week to 40 hours limited the ability of smaller communities to hire full-time fighters. To address this, AM 882 allows communities to negotiate work hours with the collective bargaining agent or the firefighter directly if there is not a bargaining unit.

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Steve Lathrop, Chairperson