

Chairperson:	Tim Gay
Committee:	Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing:	January 29, 2009

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

LB 141 creates the Brain Injury Council whose members are appointed by the Governor to oversee programs created under the federal Traumatic Brain Injury Act. The council will be located in Vocational Rehabilitation and advises the director of Vocational Rehabilitation on the administration of the Veterans Resource Facilitation Fund.

LB 141 creates resource facilitators within Vocational Rehabilitation to provide on-going support for veterans with brain injury in coping with living with a brain injury and to assist individuals in transitioning back to employment and living in the community.

The purpose of the Veterans Resource Facilitation Fund is to provide for resource facilitators and the primary function of the resource facilitator is to utilize and increase the capacity of existing services available to veterans with brain injury.

The funds may be used for training existing service providers to provide brain injury services and to access and maximize the private and public funding available to support veterans with brain injury. The intent is to maximize what currently exists in the community and to enhance the necessary services for veterans to allow them to live successfully in the community.

Support for the Brain Injury Council may be provided through this fund.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Kent Rogert