



**One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009**  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 575**

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**Chairperson:** Bill Avery  
**Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Date of Hearing:** March 11, 2009

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

The purpose of LB 575 is to provide enhanced accountability, checks and balances through a channel of authorities in order to preserve the integrity of the initiative and referendum petition process by preventing the fraudulent accumulation of signatures often driven by competitive compensation.

LB 575 enables the Secretary of State, Attorney General and Department of Labor to share information on employment and compensation regarding any circulator of an initiative and referendum petition or any person employing or contracting with such circulator to be in compliance with 32-630.

LB 575 allows the Nebraska State Patrol to have exclusive jurisdiction to investigate potential violations committed by circulators of initiative and referendum petitions.

The Nebraska State Patrol shall conduct its investigations in cooperation with the Secretary of State, Attorney General and Department of Labor.

LB 575 provides that if the Attorney General finds probable cause to prosecute a violation based on investigations made by the Nebraska State Patrol, the Secretary of State shall then issue a cease and desist order to suspend the circulation of the petition by the circulator that is in violation.

The Attorney General shall have exclusive prosecutorial power on these violations.

LB 575 stipulates that the Secretary of State, Election Commissioner or County Clerk shall not accept any signature gathered by a circulator who is subject to a cease and desist order during such order and if the circulator is convicted of violating a cease and desist order, the signature will be rejected and not counted.

A suit under 32-1412 shall be advanced on the court docket and heard within 10 days after the suit is filed and the court will issue a decision within 15 days after the matter is submitted for a decision.

Any party may appeal directly to the Supreme Court within 10 days after a decision is rendered.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Kent Rogert**