



One Hundred First Legislature - Second Session - 2010  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 889**

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**Chairperson:** Brad Ashford  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Date of Hearing:** February 4, 2010

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

Legislative Bill 889 would strengthen Nebraska's self-defense laws by amending what many call the "Castle Doctrine" and its philosophy into our statutes. The Castle Doctrine primarily pertains to the right to use force, even deadly force, when protecting yourself, family, and others while in your home; the philosophy also extends to your place of work, and your vehicle.

Currently, many Nebraska residents are unclear as to their right to use force or deadly force in self-defense; because they believe, our statutes are complex, weak, or lack clarity. Under our existing statutes, there are requirements to retreat and requirements to balance the choice of greater evils that cause uncertainty. In addition, the justifications for the use of deadly force seem narrowly defined and may need to include other violent crimes. Finally, current law allows for civil remedies for an individual who broke into a home and was shot and injured, even though the homeowner was found justified in their use of force in court.

The intent of LB 889 is to address these issues and provide a clearer policy that strengthens an individual's rights to self-defense.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Mark Christensen**