

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB51

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 26, 2011
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Krist
One Liner: Require health clinics to have patient transfer agreements

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Bloomfield, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Wallman
Nay:	1	Senator Cook
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Campbell

Proponents:	Representing:
Senator Bob Krist	District #10
Bruce Rieker	Nebraska Hospital Association
Kim Robak	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
Al Riskowski	Nebraska Family Council

Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 51 requires a health clinic, prior to being licensed under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act, to have a patient transfer agreement in effect with a local hospital.

In order to be eligible to participate in a patient transfer agreement with a health clinic, the hospital shall:

- Accept patients covered by Medicare; or
- Provide emergency room services; and
- Allow clinical privileges for the physicians performing surgery at the health clinic.

A patient transfer agreement shall address procedures for:

- Appropriate transfer of patients;
- Continuity of care; and
- Support for maintaining emergency capacity, including on-call coverage.

The department will adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the patient transfer agreement requirements and, as a minimum requirement, the hospital must have reasonable distance parameters, emergency room services, and hospital capacity.

Public health clinics operated by the department or any county, city-county, or multi-county health department are exempt from this section.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 79 to LB 51 strikes the requirement that in order for a hospital to be eligible to participate in a patient transfer agreement with a health clinic, the hospital must allow clinical privileges for physicians performing surgery at the health clinic. Instead, AM 79 states that in order for a hospital to be eligible to participate in a patient transfer agreement with a health clinic, the hospital shall allow qualified physicians performing surgery at the health clinic clinical privileges pursuant to section 71-2048.01.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson