

**ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB648**

---

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 09, 2011  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Christensen  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to notice for foster care reviews and hearings

---

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

---

**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Ashford, Coash, Council, Harr, Larson, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, McGill  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

---

**Proponents:**

SEN. MARK CHRISTENSEN  
ERICA FISH  
SAM HABERMAN  
PAMELA ALLEN

**Representing:**

INTRODUCER  
SELF- FORMER FOSTER PARENT  
SELF  
NEBRASKA FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

CHRISTINE COSTANTAKOS

**Representing:**

PRIVATE ATTORNEY

---

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

Legislative Bill 648 would amend provisions of the Foster Care Review Act related to review and hearing notice and participation. Under the bill, hearings pertaining to a child in foster care placement would carry the same notice and right of participation requirements as court reviews. Notice of any hearing or court review would have to be mailed or personally delivered by the court to the counsel or party five full days prior to the hearing or review. The Department of Health and Human Services or contract agency must maintain contact information for all placements for the court to use in providing notice. The contact information must be updated within 72 hours of any change of placement.

The bill would provide that foster parents are necessary parties to a hearing regarding removal of a child from a foster parents' home, thus allowing foster parents to call and cross-examine witnesses and to appeal. The bill would also require the court to ask any present and willing foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative caring for the child about the well-being of the child at the hearing.

---

**Explanation of amendments:**

Committee Amendment AM 802 would strike the provisions for foster parents to have standing as necessary parties in removal hearings.

---

---

Brad Ashford, Chairperson