

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB266**

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**Chairperson: Senator Bill Avery**

**Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs**

**Date of Hearing: January 26, 2011**

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

LB 266 is a clarification of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law. Under current law, there are only two reasons a Nebraska political subdivision board can go into closed session: (1) to protect the public interest or (2) to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual.

The current language of 84-1410(1)(d) is confusing for political subdivision boards when evaluating the job performance of an employee. It suggests that the board may enter a closed session only to protect the reputation of the person being evaluated. Elimination of the language "when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation" clarifies the Legislature's intent to allow job performance evaluations of nonelected officials and employees to be conducted in a closed session unless a public meeting is requested by the employee.

This clarification will allow Nebraska political subdivision boards to more effectively evaluate their employees.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Kate Sullivan**