

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB935

Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 09, 2012

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

LB 935 would expand the definition of who could legally petition a district court for visitation of a minor child. Under current law, only a grandparent is able to petition for visitation rights if:

- a). the child's parents are deceased;
- b). the marriage of the child's parents has been dissolved or a petition for dissolution has been filed; or
- c). the parents have never been married, but paternity has been established.

Under LB 935, a person with a "legitimate interest" could petition the court for visitation. A person with a "legitimate interest" includes, but is not limited to, a grandparent, a great-grandparent, stepparent, former stepparent, family member and legal guardian. The bill would also permit a person with a legitimate interest to petition for visitation if the child has been placed outside of the home but has not been legally adopted.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Jim Smith