

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2016**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB919**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday February 05, 2016  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Williams  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to problem solving court programs

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Chambers, Coash, Ebke, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Seiler, Williams

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

SEN. MATT WILLIAMS  
JIM DOYLE  
SCOTT CARLSON

JOHN KRECJI  
PAUL COONEY  
MANDY GRUHLKEY  
SPIKE EICKHOLT  
ERIC DILLOW

**Representing:**

INTRODUCER  
SELF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS AND PROBATION  
NAACP/NEBRASKANS FOR PEACE  
LANCASTER COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER  
NCDA  
ACLU  
NE STATE BAR

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB919 would change provisions relating to problem solving court programs.

Section 1 would amend 24-1301 to update Legislative findings regarding problem solving courts.

Section 2 would amend 24-1302, the statute stating legislative intent regarding problem solving courts. Currently, the statute only refers to drug court programs and problem solving court programs. The bill would expand the language to include "veteran's, mental health, driving under the influence, reentry, and other problem solving court programs" as well.

This section would also add an explicit authorization to provide "evidence-based interventions, including medication-assisted treatment."

Section 3 would amend 29-2246, the definition section of the Nebraska Probation Administration Act, to strike reference

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to "drug court". The bill would use the term "problem solving court program" as an umbrella term, which would include drug courts.

Section 4 would repeal the sections amended by this act.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM2171, the Judiciary Committee amendment to LB919, would make the following changes:

In section 1, clarify language updating the Legislative findings regarding problem solving courts, to state that untreated substance use disorders and untreated mental illness can contribute to increased crime. The green copy of the bill incorrectly implied that, on their own, mental health symptoms contribute to crime.

In section 2, strike unnecessary language. The green copy of the bill would have listed one type of evidence-based intervention, medication-assisted treatment, and would have given problem solving courts explicit authorization to provide it. Problem solving courts are expected to provide evidence-based interventions, and are already authorized to do so.

The amendment would also strike the apostrophe from the word "veteran's" in section 1 and section 2, and would refer to "problem solving courts" instead of "problem solving court programs" in section 1, section 2, and section 3. The amendment would make no change to the repealer clause in section 4.

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Les Seiler, Chairperson